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## THE TIMES

The East German

enigma:

Richard Davy, p 12

## Only minority in Ireland back unity says Dr O'Brien

The Dublin Government, which backs British withdrawal from Ulster, has been angered and embarrassed by Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, an opposition senator and former minister, who says that fewer than half the combined population on both sides of the Irish border favour a united Ireland.

## Dublin anger over senator's claim

from Christopher Walker

A controversial public opinion survey published last week, which claimed that most Irish men and women favour national unity, has caused embarrassment and anger among leading members of the new Dublin Cabinet.

The contention, based on a survey of 1,000 people, was that 49 per cent supported a united Ireland and 22 per cent opposed it. Half of those interviewed were in favour of withdrawing the troops, and only 15 per cent were against.

Among a mass of previously unpublished figures from the survey, Dr O'Brien said that he had discovered the deep unpopularity of the Provisional IRA among ordinary Dubliners.

One table in the survey compared the relative standing of 70 different and widely ranging social, political, and ethnic groupings in the republic. The Provisionals were found to be the most unpopular group, with only 15 per cent of the population favouring them.

The survey also showed that groups traditionally regarded as unpopular were much less disliked by Dubliners than might have been expected. Protestants came nineteenth on the list, the British twenty-second, and the Northern Irish as a whole twenty-fifth.

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Dr O'Brien went on to explain that only 57.5 per cent said they agreed that national unity was an essential solution to the Northern Irish issue. He pointed out that 36.4 per cent had disagreed; a significant scale of dissent, he maintained.

The former Irish minister also argued that the survey showed that a possible solution to the crisis making Northern Ireland an integral part of the United Kingdom with full civil rights for all citizens, was thought "acceptable or desirable" by 45 per cent of those polled.

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Dr O'Brien's intervention in the debate two weeks ago for Mr Callaghan and his opposite number, Mr Lynch, are due to hold their first meeting since Fionna Fiall in the Irish election in June.

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In a direct attack on the central policy of the new Irish administration, he added: "To advocate unity as the solution to the problems of Northern Ireland is unrealistic, unfruitful, and even mischievous, through its encouragement it gives to those who use force to achieve it a democratic object."

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In contrast, Dr O'Brien noted from a BBC poll, which showed that 76 per cent of people in Northern Ireland opposed unification, while only 15 per cent supported it. "The importance of these figures is

increased by another fact: those in the south who favour unity do so without the same degree of intensity as those Protestants in the north who oppose it," he added.

Against that finding, Dr O'Brien explained that a survey conducted in Britain by the BBC last year had shown that 49 per cent supported a united Ireland and 22 per cent opposed it. Half of those interviewed were in favour of withdrawing the troops, and only 15 per cent were against.

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## Miners 90pc pay claim is shelved

By Paul Rowlings

Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday put aside their claim for 90 per cent pay increases and decided to reopen talks with the National Coal Board on a pit-based incentive bonus scheme that should avert a politically embarrassing clash with the Government over income policy.

The cost will be paid by at least £20 a week financed by higher output.

The negotiating committee of the National Union of Mine workers voted by eight votes to four not to proceed with a claim for £135 a week for up-pit face workers, who at present earn £71. By the same margin the moderate-dominated bargaining team decided to talk with the board on the kind of productivity deal that was defeated narrowly at the union's policy-making conference in July.

Miners will breathe a sigh of relief that the most dangerous threat to the stability of the Government's pay policy is all but removed. Had the productivity initiative failed, the miners would have gone ahead with a claim for huge increases only eight months after accepting a phase two settlement.

NUM negotiators will now seek, and are almost certain to achieve, an improvement in the board's offer of £20 a week for the men who actually win the coal. The union wants another £5. The package will then go to a ballot of the members with a recommendation from the executive to accept it next month.

The huge claim agreed at the conference is being shelved ostensibly for further study. But Mr Gormley, president of the NUM, made clear last night that it could be revived if other groups of workers break through the TUC's 12-month rule, which allows only one pay rise a year.

The secret pithead ballot is likely to be completed before the end of November, and the votes will be counted by the Independent Electoral Reform Society. The outcome of bargaining with the board will, however, first be assessed by the miners' executive on

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Mr Dayan arrives in Washington with his draft treaty

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Sept 19

As Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, arrived here today, Washington was waiting eagerly to see the draft Middle East peace treaty he was reported in Israel to be bringing with him.

American officials, however, are conspicuously less optimistic about the chances of peace than they were earlier this year. It is accepted that the Geneva conference cannot reconvene before December at the earliest, and that it will be difficult to get an agreement.

Mr Dayan will be followed here later this week by Mr Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and other Arab ministers. The talks will be continued in New York, where all the ministers will attend the opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Everyone continues to concentrate on Geneva, largely because this is the one point on which all parties are agreed. The time for separate agreements between Israel and each

of its neighbours seems to have passed, although Israel would certainly like to sign another bilateral treaty with Egypt.

President Sadat has repudiated holly any such idea, and it is thought here that even in a state of desperation, with his regime at stake, the price would still be too high. The Americans hope the Israelis will accept that it is in their interest to keep Mr Sadat in office and that they will concede something to him to allow him to claim progress is being made.

It is no more than a hope. The Americans believe that Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was a moderate and have been adjusting themselves to the reality since he visited Washington in June.

It is thought important that the essential elements of a peace agreement should be settled before the Geneva conference reconvenes, for fear of disaster if it breaks down. The main issue remains the Palestinian "entity" and the West Bank.



President Carter welcomes Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, for talks in the White House.

Mr Dayan has been advocating an "internal solution", under which the occupied territories would be given a great deal of autonomy without reducing Israel's military control, its ability to settle Jews there, or the economic integration of the two areas. It is unlikely, however, that President Carter, this time, will not neglect to inform his visitor that America deeply disapproves of Jewish settlements on occupied land.

The question of Palestinian representation at Geneva will have to be settled, but the view here is that there are more important issues. If they could be settled, and the only outstanding problem was the composition of the Arab delegation or delegations at Geneva, the Israelis would show sufficient flexibility.

The Americans have come down on the side of a single pan-Arab delegation, representing all the "confrontation states" and including Palestinians and Lebanese. The Arabs would accept this but Israel so far has refused.

Mr Dayan was greeted by a double column advertisement in the New York Times today headed: "Are we welcoming the murderer of our sons?" It was inserted by the American Palestine Committee and alleged that Mr Dayan, when he was Defence Minister, ordered the attack on the USS Liberty during the war of 1967.

The Liberty was a communications spy ship, monitoring the radio waves during the war. It was in the war zone, was attacked by the Israeli air force and 24 members of the crew were killed.

The advertisement alleged that CIA documents, from which it published inconclusive extracts, proved that the Liberty was an American ship. The Israelis have always said the attack was a mistake, made at the height of the war.



Male and female snow leopard cubs born at Mr John Aspinall's Howletts Zoo park, Kent, 12 weeks ago take a look at the outside world.

## Thatcher plan 'threat to Commons power'

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher's proposal that there should be a referendum on any industrial dispute that brought about a constitutional crisis was a dangerous and absurd proposal, Mr Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons, said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in Edinburgh, he said: "It is in the House of Commons that the community of Britain is supposed to make its final decisions on these matters. The House has to be directly answerable... and has to establish the kind of institutions which are going to work. That is what we have been doing."

The Labour Government had restored to the Commons some of the responsibility that the Heath Government took away from it. It had established institutions that could help to ease industrial relations.

In asserting the responsibility of the Government and Parliament, Mr Foot was echoing opinions being voiced privately by some Conservative MPs yesterday.

It was emphasized by members of the Shadow Cabinet that neither they nor Mrs Thatcher accepted the proposition that a Conservative government would land itself in the kind of confrontation with the

unions that Mr Brian Walden, her interviewer on Sunday, had envisaged.

Mr John Biffen, Conservative MP for Oswestry, who was for a time Mrs Thatcher's front-bench team, said in a BBC radio interview yesterday that it was tremendously important that Mrs Thatcher's suggestion (made in the *Weekend World* programme on Sunday) should be put into its context.

"It would be put forward only as a possible alternative to a general election, for consideration in the circumstances which might arise in the future; it was no more than that," he said. "It is important to emphasize that the ramifications of the suggestion do need very careful analysis."

If that was done, Mr Biffen said, it would be seen that there were powerful objections to the referendum on grounds of principle. In the words of Edmund Burke, it would tend to usurp the authority of Parliament.

MPs were representatives and not delegates and should vote as their consciences dictated on any particular issue while, of course, remaining answerable to the electorate at a general election. That did not mean that Mrs Thatcher's suggestion should be ruled out completely.

There was an argument that could be put forward for a referendum on the kind of issue

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Five die in Scottish coach crash

By a Staff Reporter

Five people were killed—two men and three women—and 29 injured when a coach plunged 40ft down an embankment yesterday after being in collision with a Range Rover at Birkenhead on the A68 near Lauder, Borders. The Range Rover was towing a horse-box.

All the dead were passengers in the coach. The drivers of both vehicles were detained in hospital in Edinburgh. The coach, which was owned by the East Yorkshire Transport Company of Hull, was on its regular service between Hull and Glasgow, via Edinburgh.

The injured were taken to the Peal Hospital, Galashiels, and the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Among them were an 11-month-old child and its parents and a three-year-old girl and her mother. All were detained in hospital.

Police appealed for witnesses among those who were travelling along the road between 3.40 and 3.50 yesterday afternoon and who might have seen the crash or events leading up to it to get in touch with them at Galashiels or through their local police station.

A casualty reporting centre was set up so that relatives or friends of passengers could obtain information. The number is Hawick 3294.

Photograph, page 2

## New mediation talks in bread dispute

By Tim Jones

Labour Reporter

Talks between the union and the employers aimed at ending the strike that has halted most of the bread production in England and Wales were under way last night at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) in London.

Earlier both sides had been given the opportunity of studying recommendations for settling the dispute formulated over the weekend by the mediator, Dr Norman Ross, of Birmingham University.

Before the meeting, Mr

Samuel Maddox, general secretary of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union, indicated that his executive were happy with the recommendations dealing with their claim for Bank holiday and time-off payments.

Back at work: Union members working for small independent bakers were back at work yesterday after the union had agreed they should not be involved in the dispute (the Press Association reports).

Mr Morris Zimmerman, director of the Master Bakers Association, representing four thousand small bakeries, said: "Our members are working absolutely flat out."

Reports, page 6

## Deputy to take over as ITN editor

By a Staff Reporter

Mr David Nicholas, deputy editor of Independent Television News, is to succeed Mr Nigel Ryan as editor and chief executive. Mr Ryan is joining BBC News in America as vice-president in charge of special documentary programmes.

Mr Nicholas, who is 47, joined ITN in 1960 and became deputy editor three years later. He takes up the editorship when Mr Ryan leaves on November 4, after nine years as editor.

A former newspaper reporter, he has produced the successful *News at Ten* and general election results programmes since 1966. Together with Mr Ryan and the ITN team he was awarded the Royal Television Society's silver medal for the ITN coverage of the first manned Moon landing, Apollo 11.

## Hotel bombs in Miami area

Miami, Sept 19.—Bombs exploded in recreation areas and lobbies at four luxury hotels in Miami and Miami Beach early today, but little damage and no injuries were reported.

A group of Cuban exiles demanding freedom for political prisoners in Cuba claimed responsibility.—AP.

## Sailor rescued

The attempt by Mr Enda Rabbitt, an Irishman, to sail the Atlantic single-handed failed yesterday



HOME NEWS

# Union protests about rejection of motion for Labour conference

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The fourth largest union affiliated to the Labour Party is to protest at the stalling of debate at the forthcoming party conference on an alternative economic strategy for the Government.

The National Union of Public Employees will challenge exclusion from the agenda of a motion calling for more socialist policies, including further nationalization, increased public spending and import controls. Similar objectives were adopted by the Trades Union Congress two weeks ago.

The union will ask delegates on the first day of the conference to reject a report from the conference arrangements committee, which has refused to put the union's motion on the agenda under the "catch all" clause on standing orders that allows motions covering more than one subject.

A resolution on unemployment tabled by the second largest affiliate, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering

Workers, is also understood to have been ruled out of order on a similar ground, but the Government will not escape censure from the trade union left over its economic policies.

The public employees have invited a full-page advertisement in the party's annual report to the conference to tell delegates that theirs is just one of the resolutions not appearing on the agenda. The resolution's contents are printed in full "in the interests of democracy", and the motion opens with an insistence that the Government must create an economic base for a Labour victory at the next election.

It calls on the Government to introduce socialist planning measures to attack the fundamental weakness of the British economy and proposes a nine-point programme, including an extension of public ownership, an expanded role for the National Enterprise Board, compulsory planning agreements with industry, the restoration of cuts in public spending, and wide import controls.

# Cuts 'have caused few hospital closures'

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

Of 106 hospital closures approved between the middle of 1974 and March this year, 97 were agreed by community health councils and only nine were challenged, Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

Few closures had been hastened by the need to conserve resources, he said. Most were planned, and in general facilities were either replaced or had outlived their purpose. The National Health Service was expanding.

The minister said he was determined to continue redistribution of health service cash to reduce inequalities between and within regions. "It cannot be done without treading on the toes of the better-provided regions. But we cannot allow the gap to widen or even stay as wide as it is."

During the next few years he would introduce a system of dividing up capital allocation according to the principles set out for revenue allocation by the Resource Allocation Working Party.

Mr. Ennals said he was giving special consideration to two proposed changes. First, to relate the population served more closely to the expected allocation level in the year for which it was made; and second, to allow the effect of varying price levels and costs in different parts of the country.

Mr. Ennals also announced the Government's guidelines for priorities on spending in the health and social services over the next decade. The document, *The Way Forward*, is based on the consultative document, the first of its kind, issued by Mrs. Castle, the Secretary of State's predecessor.

Economic and rationalization in the acute sector of medicine would be necessary so that services for the elderly, disabled, the mentally ill and mentally handicapped could be improved, the minister said.

But until a public spending could be seen to progress would be slower than the Government would like. Many changes would depend on reallocation of resources and on greater efficiency.

More local hospitals would become community hospitals, and there would be more help for old people living in their own homes.

Increased priority would be given to preventive medicine. Because of delays in completing projects, the TUC target for 1980 of 4,000 a year in 1980 could not be met.

In a chapter on more effective use of resources, the document notes that one district has saved £21,000 a year by adopting a more economical way of maintaining grounds and gardens.

The British Medical Association said last night that the new priorities document was disappointing. It said the Government was no longer prepared to provide the comprehensive health service the public had come to expect it should say.

# Workers flown off oil rig after dispute

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Relays of helicopters have flown more than a hundred men off a North Sea oil platform after they had stopped work in protest at the management's refusal to recognize a workers' committee.

This morning happened on the Duntul A platform, 120 miles north-west of Shetland. The employees, McDermott's Oceanics Drilling Contractors, refused in Aberdeen last night to comment. They are to make a statement today.

Partners in the field, which is modest in size and was discovered in July, 1973, are Shell, Esso, Conoco, Gulf and British National Oil Exploration.

Shell Esso said: "One hundred and ninety men were flown off over the weekend, leaving about 53 men on the platform continuing to operate. Oceanics are preparing to men up again, presumably with a different crew."

The men were flown to Sunningdale, Shetland, and then to Aberdeen by chartered flight. On arrival some said that the management had threatened to call in the Navy if they did

not leave, because technically they would be guilty of mutiny.

The Duntul A, Shell Esso's newest platform, was moved into place three months ago in one of the smallest fields that Shell has decided to drill. Production is expected to start in autumn next year. The stoppage has halted hooking-up work, which involves connecting pipes and electricity.

Shell Esso said the next move would be to send McDermott's Oceanics to the platform. However, since the Duntul A is in its early stages, the dispute has not affected production.

The platform is to be linked with the Brent field and will eventually be pumping oil down the 100 mile underwater pipeline to Sullom Voe in Shetland. Reserves are expected to be about 400 million barrels.

The dispute came as the TUC was holding its first recognition agreement for an offshore production platform. A deal is expected over the Occidental Piper Alpha production platform in the next few weeks.

More than 100 men on the platform and maintenance staff on the platform are expected to join the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

# Buffer needed to maintain freedom at colleges

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Another scathing attack on the way in which many local authorities are carrying out their management responsibilities for further education colleges in their areas is to be delivered by Canon George Tolley, Principal of Sheffield City Polytechnic, in a speech to the annual conference of the British Educational Administration Society at the end of this week.

Canon Tolley disagrees, however, with the Association of Polytechnic Teachers, who recently called for the removal of polytechnics from local government control. He believes that local government, for all its faults, is still the best means of providing the necessary buffer between central government and the individual colleges.

"I would prefer to know a little bit more about the discomfort of the fire before jumping out of the frying pan," Canon Tolley said.

Central Government was expected to formulate and declare national policies for further education, Canon Tolley is expected to say. But the colleges demanded certain essential freedoms at institutional level: freedom to set the curriculum, to make appointments, to select students, to innovate, to challenge national policy, and freedom of management. Some buffer was needed in order to maintain those freedoms.

But was local government an effective or preferred buffer? Were there real dangers that local government might be destroying the very freedoms that it should be nurturing? Central government had progressively tightened its control over local government. The essential freedom afforded to local authorities was more and more becoming that of doing nothing.

They had failed to do anything about the debacle in teacher training. They had failed to meet the needs of industry

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They had failed to do anything about the debacle in teacher training. They had failed to meet the needs of industry

# Gold-plated Rolls-Royce sold for £83,500

By Peter Waymark  
Motoring Correspondent

An unknown buyer took delivery of a new gold-plated Rolls-Royce yesterday and paid £83,500, making it the most expensive car ever sold in Britain.

The vehicle is a Rolls-Royce Phantom VI, the world's largest Rolls-Royce distributor, from its London showroom in Berkeley Square, where passers-by were able to catch a glimpse of it yesterday. Mr. H. H. Goldsmith, marketing executive of

The buyer, who has asked that his name should not be disclosed, is an international businessman with several homes, including one in London. He is said not to be a Middle East oil sheikh. The only positive clue to his identity are the initials "EVK" outlined in gold on the rear doors.

The car weighs 21 tons and took 60 people about 18 months to build. It was sold by Jack Barclay Ltd, the world's largest Rolls-Royce distributor, from its London showroom in Berkeley Square, where passers-by were able to catch a glimpse of it yesterday. Mr. H. H. Goldsmith, marketing executive of

Dutton-Forsyth, the Barclay parent company, said the previous highest price paid for a Rolls in Britain was £54,000.

The Landauette is a convertible car with a soft rear roof that can be rolled back by operating an electro-hydraulic pump. It has a 6.7-litre engine, the largest made in Britain, does 12 miles to the gallon and costs about £2,000 a year to insure.

The Phantom series, which is hand-built at the Rolls-Royce factory at Willesden, north London, goes back to 1925, and the present model, the sixth, was introduced in 1968. It is particularly favoured by royalty, as well as non-royal heads of state, and has been finding a

ready market among the emerging nations of Africa and the Middle East.

A diamond merchant who liked to carry his stock with him ordered one with a safe. Another recent customer, a princess, specified silk furnishings, side curtains for privacy and special cabinets and tables to carry her silver vanity set.

It is possible to buy a yet more expensive version of the Phantom, sold to political leaders who ride in daily fear of an assassin's bullet. Rolls-Royce is reluctant to go into details about the effectiveness of the armour but the price, for anyone interested, is £150,000.

# Windscale inquiry may be frightening tourists away

From a Special Correspondent  
Whitehaven

The picturesque village of Ravenglass, Cumbria, may be suffering a loss of tourists because of its close proximity to British Nuclear Fuels' plant at Windscale and because of all the publicity attending the inquiry into the company's proposals for an oxide-repressing plant.

That was the impression gained at the inquiry at Whitehaven, yesterday from one of the objectors to BNFL's plans, Mr. Joseph Thompson, of the Network For Nuclear Concern, who had previously been asked by Mr. Justice Parker, who is conducting the inquiry, if he could supply further information about the sale of mussels

collected from the sea at Ravenglass.

Mr. Thompson said he had had difficulty in getting the information. There seems to be a bit of an atmosphere developing in Ravenglass.

Mr. Thompson said that a friend who had collected mussels might be able to obtain further information and a more accurate assessment of the mussel harvest.

Radioactive discharges from Windscale are readily observed in fish life, and Mr. Thompson has observed that the Ministry of Agriculture's Fisheries Research Laboratory, at Lowestoft, has insisted that mussels from the area were not regularly consumed. Mr. Thompson has maintained that that is incorrect.

# MP says Luton airport is to be allowed to expand

From Our Correspondent  
Luton

The Government plans to let Luton airport expand while it delays a decision on a new third London airport, according to Mr. Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Hemel Hempstead.

He said: "Despite massive opposition to this expansion, I predict that the Government will allow the airport to increase its passenger handling from the present two million to five million a year."

Mr. Corbett described that as "a slap in the face for almost every parish and district council in Bedfordshire, as well as for the county council itself."

The airport is owned by Luton Borough Council. Its profits help to keep down the town's rates. But Luton itself escapes the noise nuisance.

Flight paths are over the surrounding areas of Hertfordshire and south Bedfordshire.

Mr. Corbett said: "I have been told by someone involved in the preparation of the White Paper that Luton will get its way because this is the cheapest short-term solution."

Expansion at Luton would mean going back to the levels of 1973 when Court Line was flying from the airport, he said.

Our Air Correspondent writes: The White Paper on airports policy is unlikely to be published before October or November. The Government will set out its views on how the four main airports in the South-east, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton, should expand, and how those in the provinces can relieve congestion.

# Canvassed to lift fallen giraffe

Royal Navy experts in making canvas slings were completing an exercise in which they were asked to lift a dead giraffe that had fallen at a zoo.

The giraffe, which was a year-old, had collapsed at Marwell zoological park, near Winchester, on Thursday.

The slings were made of canvas and were used to lift the giraffe from the ground. The giraffe was then taken to a veterinary hospital for examination.

# Paedophiles jeered and pelted by angry crowd

By Penny Symon

Members of the Paedophile Information Exchange, who believe in legalizing sexual relationships between adults and children, were jeered, spat upon and pelted with stones and rotten eggs by a screaming crowd of demonstrators as they went into the Conway Hall in

London, last night for a meeting.

About 150 demonstrators, most of whom were from the National Front, included groups of women who shouted that children must be protected from members of PIE who were "child molesters" and "perverts". As the meeting, atten-

ded by about one hundred people, went on, police reinforcements were called up and ambulances were on hand in case of casualties.

Mr. Gerard Kemp, a reporter for the Daily Telegraph, was badly scratched under his eye and had his coat torn as he went in to cover the meeting.

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Before he had a chance to explain that he was a reporter, one of the crowd shouted, "He's one of them!"

The general management committee of the South Place Ethical Society, proprietors of Conway Hall, had agreed by 15 votes to two to allow PIE to use the hall.

# Club employees to be polled again on union

By Our Labour Staff

Officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) are planning to hold a second attitude survey on trade union organization among employees of the Playboy Club, London, who have already rejected the concept.

ACAS officials have agreed to declare their first report recommending recognition of the supervisory section of the Transport and General Workers' Union void because they broke Employment Protection Act regulations by not including in their questionnaire the Playboy Staff Association.

ACAS has offered to pay the legal costs of the club.

# MP protests at removal of boy from ship

Mr Richard Mitchell, Labour MP for Southampton, Itchen, protested to the Lord Chancellor yesterday about events leading to the removal from a ship of a boy aged three who was taken from a liner bound for Melbourne, and strapped to a bosun's chair. The child was made a ward of court as he and his mother were leaving the ship.

The affair began with the intervention of the boy's father, who lives at Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

# Police find cottage where US missionary was held

Detectives yesterday found the place where Mr Kirk Anderson, aged 27, a Mormon missionary, was held hostage before being released in London on Saturday. They said he was held at a rented holiday cottage on an isolated farm on the outskirts of Okehampton, Devon.

Earlier, Mr Anderson's former girl friend, Joyce McKinney, aged 27, and an American, Keith May, aged 25, were

stopped in a Vauxhall car at a police roadblock on the A30 at Crookwell, between Exeter and Okehampton.

The couple were taken to Heavitree police station, Exeter, where police officers picked them up to take them to Epsom for questioning. Officers also examined the cottage.

The police said a fourth person, a Brion, was detained yesterday. Six people in all were being questioned.

# Tories 'passing the buck to the people'

Continued from page 1

that had been mentioned. But that would not be a referendum in the normal sense; rather it would amount to a single-issue general election.

The would lead to enormous complications, he said. If there was such a confrontation with a union the referendum could do one of two things. The first was that the country would support the Government, in which case the authority of the Government would be expected to be strengthened.

The other alternative would be that the country would not support the Government. "In those circumstances I think it is inconceivable that the government of the day would not fall and go to the country in a general election."

Mr Foot did not think Mrs Thatcher's plan would ever be put into operation. "It would be put out of court as soon as the public and members of the

Conservative Party had looked at it.

Any attempt to put the plan into operation would cause more divisions in society. He did not believe that an industrial dispute could be regarded as a constitutional issue, such as the Common Market or the establishment of Scottish and Welsh assemblies, on which referendums could be held.

Mrs Thatcher's proposal would mean the final disruption of the authority of the Commons.

Mr Alan Beith, Liberal Party Chief Whip, said at Craster, Northumberland, last night that the Conservative Party was sinking deeper into confusion over its economic and industrial policies.

"Mrs Thatcher's latest excursion on the subject of a referendum underlines the confusion," he said. "In failing to recognize the different and contradictory industrial strategies of her own

employment spokesman [Mr Prior] and her industry spokesman [Sir Keith Joseph] she has once more demonstrated her party's failure to spell out its policy on the crucial question of industrial relations."

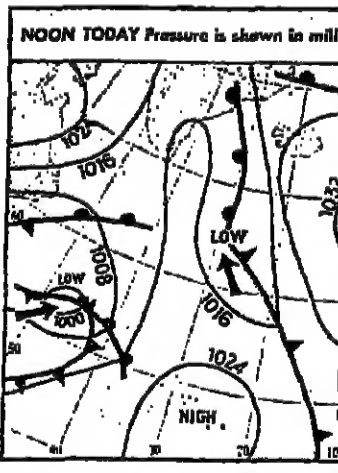
Mrs Thatcher herself summed up the hypocrisy of what she was now suggesting when she attacked Sir Harold Wilson's use of the referendum in 1975.

She had said: "Used by the Labour Government in its reform proposed, the referendum is a tactical device to get over a split in their own party, and any constitutional consequences are, therefore, of only secondary importance in the Government's eyes."

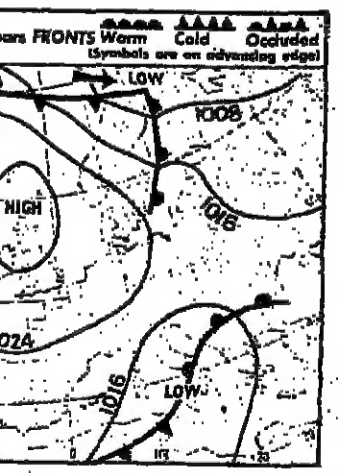
"If the Government cannot agree, gone is the discipline of resignation, gone is the principle of accountability to Parliament. The new doctrine is to pass the buck to the people."

Diary, page 12  
Letters, page 13

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# Coffee and barley mixed to cut prices

By Hugh Clayton

Coffee-blenders trying to soften the impact of record prices have decided to sell a mixture of coffee and barley. The mixture, which will be sold as a new blend of coffee, will be sold at a price of about 30p in the pound, less than a pure coffee blend.

The variety, Tern, was a lighter barley, the same as used in the top-quality layers. The mixture, which will be sold as a new blend of coffee, will be sold at a price of about 30p in the pound, less than a pure coffee blend.

It will be sold by the company's Tetley subsidiary, normally associated with tea. Tetley will also sell a new blend of coffee, containing chicory and dried barley and rye extract under the Horncorn name, which is also usually associated with tea.

Latest price increase for instant coffee will make the smallest jar of Nescafe containing an ounce of coffee about 50p instead of the current 36p. The 4oz jar will rise from £1.20 to £1.25.

Although recent cuts in prices of coffee beans will not affect instant coffee costs for months, they have had an impact on ground coffee. The standard supermarket blend of all prices has fallen by 2p a pound yesterday. The company said that it had not changed any blends.

# Canvas cradle made to lift fallen giraffe

Royal Navy experts in making canvas slings were completing an exercise in which they were asked to lift a dead giraffe that had fallen at a zoo.

The giraffe, which was a year-old, had collapsed at Marwell zoological park, near Winchester, on Thursday.

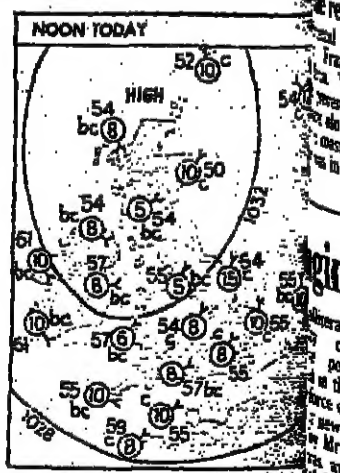
The slings were made of canvas and were used to lift the giraffe from the ground. The giraffe was then taken to a veterinary hospital for examination.

# Ex-editor sent blasphemous poem by post

William McIlroy, aged 50, was fined £50 at Highgate Magistrates' Court yesterday for sending a blasphemous poem to the editor of the *Gay News* magazine.

McIlroy, who is the former editor of the *Gay News* magazine, was fined £50 for sending a blasphemous poem to the editor of the *Gay News* magazine.

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## HOME NEWS

## The poor 'pay highest prices for food and warmth, get least aid'

By Robia Young  
Consumer Affairs  
Correspondent

In present-day Britain the poor are cheated of value for what little money they have. Their cost of living is higher, they get a worse deal from public services, they are deliberately charged more by the nationalized fuel industries, and the very poorest get least welfare benefits.

Those allegations are documented in *Why The Poor Pay More*, published today for the National Consumer Council.

The contributors to the book argue that the poor are deprived of freedom of choice because their spending is predominantly on essentials.

Poor families spend two thirds of their income on the basic necessities of food, fuel, and housing: three times the proportion spent by rich families.

Their fuel costs them more because of discrimination in fuel pricing. A poor family using electric fires may pay 54p for warmth that would cost a rich family, living in a well insulated house with gas central heating, only 5p.

Their food costs more because they are obliged to buy in small quantities and lack transport to reach supermarkets and hypermarkets. The smallest lot can of processed peas was found by the Price Commission to work out 79 per cent more expensive than the most popular size.

Housing is the one area in which the poor are living in good value council homes or houses bought outright in the past, often get better value for money than the rich, but a significant minority, living in private furnished accommodation, get the worst value of all. In any case the poor cannot live where they choose but "end to be stuck with what the system provides, and its mistakes".

Alisdair Aird, a former research director at the National Consumer Council, calculates that it costs the poor 11 per cent more to get the equivalent goods and services enjoyed by average families, excluding housing.

That "consumer detriment" is estimated at more than £100 a year for typical poor families. "Money down the drain" is a sort of fine or penalty imposed on people simply because they are poor.

Because a large proportion of their income goes on essentials, the poor are found to have been most severely affected by inflation. Food and fuel prices have risen more rapidly than those of other commodities.

If the poor borrow to make ends meet they have to pay more for credit. True rates of interest for small loans may go as high as 1,706 per cent.

The poor pay a higher proportion of their earnings in national insurance contributions, but get less out of the welfare system than the rich receive from tax allowances and other benefits.

Professor Maurice Backett of Nottingham University says terminally ill patients in social groups are five times less likely than the top group to receive a home visit from a consultant.

The editor, Miss Frances Williams, says some of the difficulties reflect our unequal society, but the contributors do recommend some solutions, including reallocation of medical resources, abolition of the contributory principle for national insurance benefits, and formation of bulk-purchasing clubs.

Why the Poor Pay More (Macmillan, £9.95; paperback £2.95).

ment seized by the police in 1976, which should have been destroyed. This matter is being rigorously investigated by the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, for the defence, said the drug squad officer, Sergeant X, had blackmailed Mr Goss into commencing the offences.

He added: "He, together with three of his colleagues, one of them a detective chief inspector, has been suspended over this case. He has not been charged."

Judge Ward agreed that the name should not be disclosed. He said: "There is no question of protecting him. It is a case of simple justice."

Mr Thomas said there had been certain admissions by the Director of Public Prosecutions, that Mr Goss had made a statement to Scotland Yard that the drugs found in his garage had come from a peace control store and that four officers had been suspended. The DPP envisaged Mr Goss as the main prosecution witness in any charges that might be brought against the officers.

From a Staff Reporter  
Manchester

Members of Tameside Borough Council, who have been called to an extraordinary meeting this morning to discuss a proposed National Front rally in their territory next month, each received a letter yesterday from a senior official of the trade union movement urging them to support a ban on the proceedings.

The letter was sent by Mr Colin Barnett, secretary of the North West Regional Council of the TUC, who is also secretary of the North West Committee against Racism. He recently circulated a leaflet among two million trade unionists calling for a peaceful and non-violent counter-demonstration to the proposed National Front march and rally on October 8.

His letter asks the councillors not only to support an application by Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, for a ban on the proposed outdoor march but also to refuse to let Hyde Town Hall to the National Front for the indoor rally proposed as a conclusion to the demonstration. Mr Anderson saw senior officials at the Home Office in London yesterday.

Yesterday Mr Barnett and other members of the North West Committee against Racism were asking the Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Percy Travis, for a ban on both parts of the proposed demonstration. The committee has already written to the Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Percy Travis, for a ban on both parts of the proposed demonstration.

Mr Barnett, who believes he can count on support from about 20,000 trade unionists in the North-west, said yesterday that unless both the outdoor and indoor rallies were banned his planned counter-demonstration would go ahead.

Members of the National Union of Public Employees and the National and Local Government Officers Association at Hyde have said that they would refuse to open the doors of the town hall for the indoor rally.

Gamekeeper is fined over use of bird trap

A gamekeeper on Lord Hesketh's estate set a trap to catch a marauding crow which had been pecking out the eyes of young lambs. It was stated at Towcester Magistrates' Court, Northamptonshire, yesterday. But the trap, on top of a 7ft pole, was used in such a way as to be a danger to owls and other birds, it was stated.

In a private prosecution brought by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Keith Edwin Healey, of Fulcore, Towcester, was fined £27 and ordered to pay £5 costs. He admitted three charges of using a trap unlawfully.

Mr Healey told the court that the crows had been attacking lambs and destroying pheasants' eggs.

## WEST EUROPE

## Adherence to pluralist democracy may be membership condition

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Sept 19

A declaration of the EEC's commitment to the principles of pluralist democracy is to be drafted by the European Commission and submitted to the Community's member states for their endorsement on the occasion of the first direct elections to the European Parliament, which are due to be held in May or June next year.

The Commission will also suggest that the declaration should be incorporated into the text of the treaties of accession which Greece, Spain and Portugal, which have all applied to join the Community, will be required to sign on entry.

The proposed declaration was one of the main ideas to come out of an informal weekend gathering of the 13 commissioners at an inn in the Ardennes at which, fortified by a two-star cuisine, they addressed themselves to the political and economic implications of enlarging the EEC.

The question of what action to take should a member state cease to be a democracy was raised by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, earlier this year. He said then that there might be a need for a legal mechanism to deal with such a situation, a possibility not

previously considered. The Commission will now be asked to draft a precise legal definition of "pluralist democracy", it was felt, might do more harm than good.

Instead, the idea is that an EEC member should formally pledge itself to a general statement of democratic principles. This would then serve as a reference point to which the

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of setting up a new fund to provide financial help to the three applicant countries until they had achieved full integration into the EEC's economic structure.

It was further suggested that something longer than the five-year transitional period of membership, of the kind negotiated by Britain, Denmark and Ireland, might be agreed in the case of Greece, Portugal and Spain, because of their relative economic backwardness.

There was agreement among the commissioners that the existing of the EEC and Italians to secure protection for their Mediterranean farmers against the competition of the newcomers should not be allowed to add to the Community's food surpluses.

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H. Justin Evans

Less than a year after forming a pro-independence government, Mr. René Lévesque, the Prime Minister of Quebec, faces a well-organized civil disobedience movement among both the English-speaking population of the province and the Inuit people of the Ungava Bay region.

In both cases, the resistance to law comes after months of ferocious opposition to a Bill that made French the official language of Quebec. From now on, all the children educated in Quebec must attend French classes as a rule, the English language will be maintained available only for English-speaking pupils whose parents have been educated in English in Quebec.

This tough rule is being openly by-passed by many school boards that continue to refuse to release parents to choose to have them educated in English, no matter if the law allows or not.

As far as the Inuit people are concerned, resistance takes another form. The leaders of this movement mainly oppose any form of French penetration in the northern part of the province and insist that the Quebec government remove all its officials from their area. They even invited the federal government to provide the services they used to get from the Quebec government.

Under the Lévesque Government has reacted calmly to these public challenges to its legal authority. The Prime Minister has agreed to meet the Inuit leaders as soon as they stop their policy of permanent harassment of the provincial civil servants working in Fort-Chimo.

But the Minister of Education, Mr. Jacques-Yvan Morin, has said he will deprive the school boards that defy the law of the grants they need to fulfill their task and will refuse those children the diplomas usually delivered by the department of education. These moves are seen as a clear declaration of war by English-speaking groups who placed advertisements in the Montreal newspapers claiming, "We will not discriminate" and inviting parents to send their children to the school of their choice.

These difficulties have arisen only weeks after the Prime Minister agreed to insert certain provisions in the Bill by allowing any anglophone child coming from other parts of Canada a free access to the English school system, providing the other Canadian provinces offer a similar educational system to their French compatriots.

The nine other premiers rejected this offer on the ground that a constitutional amendment would do better to permit directly transfer minority rights than bilateral agreements between provinces. The Prime Minister of Canada himself urged the other premiers not to accept the Lévesque proposal.

That is the reason why, at the opening of the school year, only children whose parents have been educated in English in Quebec can safely choose the English school system. An exception was made for the families of the armed forces, diplomats and senior managers, who are transferred in Quebec by their employer for a limited period.

Amid reports of corporations threatening to leave Quebec either because they fear the economic consequences of independence or because they want to escape from the effects of the language Bill, the government opened a new debate by publishing a White Paper on referendum. This debate turns on the rules of the referendum on independence: the government promised to hold before entering the formal process of separation from Canada.

According to the White Paper, only Quebec-based and government-recognized and duly registered groups will be entitled to campaign for or against the government stand during the referendum debate. The state will provide public funds but expenses will be severely limited and supervised in such a way that any financial involvement of either the federal government or any other organization based outside the province will be virtually impossible.

The government keeps for itself the privilege to set the date of the referendum and to phrase the question to be put to the people, the only obligation being to submit a motion to the legislative assembly.

This procedure gives the government a clear advantage against its opponents who will have to join their forces even if they do not share the same political platform on the specific issue of federalism against independence.

One can think that a government so deeply opposed on so many crucial issues cannot survive for long and will soon be replaced by a more traditional team whose mandate will be to restore harmony in the English community and rebuild the violence within the business groups. This is not the case if the government is able to face so many opponents at the same time, it is mainly because it still enjoys wide support among the French-speaking population.

No significant opposition has been noted, outside the editorial pages of the newspapers, in the French community against the removal of the freedom of choice in the language of education, even if French Quebecers lost that freedom with the passage of the Bill.

The federal government once attempted to make life harder economically for the new government but had to reverse its policy. And the federalist forces are in a state of disarray, not only in Quebec but in Ottawa, where no political party seems able to come up with new solutions to the old Quebec grievances.

To calm down nervous opinion in English Canada the Trudeau government set up four special groups to study the constitutional mess and to find ways to strengthen Canadian unity while giving Quebecers some comfort. This cost the public treasury \$5m.

Even with the Lévesque government facing economic difficulties, civil disobedience and even civil disorders if the leaders of the English community push further ahead with their opposition to the new masters of Quebec, the supporters of the Parti Quebecois still have reasons to rejoice.

The labour unrest that almost paralysed the previous government is now a problem of the past. Neither the exodus of foreign or domestic capital so widely predicted after the victory of the PQ. Finding jobs is still a very difficult task, but the federal administration is as much to blame as the new Quebec government for the closing of many manufacturing units which are believed to be directly connected with the dumping of foreign products in the Canadian market or the lack of foreign markets for Quebec-manufactured goods.

The federal government being responsible for foreign trade, this situation helps Lévesque to build his case against federalism.

The obvious goal of the government is to make the federal administration the first protector of the rights and privileges of English Canadians in this country, while the French have no choice but to regroup behind the Quebec government. In attacking both the language legislation and the White Paper on the referendum, Ottawa is reacting to the English community pressure groups confirm the French Canadians in their suspicions that Ottawa acts much more quickly when the English-speaking community encounters difficulties than is the case when the French are in trouble.

For all these reasons, Mr. Lévesque still enjoys the confidence of a large segment of the population of Quebec. The pressure is still likely to come from English Quebecers that they must adjust to a new way of life in Quebec, but he did not lose the whole battle. In fact, he gained the endorsement of his linguistic and constitutional policy by his fellow French Canadians who never opposed significantly any of the audacious moves of his government.

A petition signed by about 300 well-known French Quebecers against the Bill was circulated during the summer, but this influential group limited its public involvement in the linguistic debate to that symbolic gesture. Now that the debate is about to close in Montreal, it is doubtful that such a petition can be circulated again.

The province is badly split in two parts. This complicates a little more the task of a federal government that must regain the support of Quebecers if it wants to preserve Canadian unity.

**Marcel Pepin**

3.45: 1. Purple Haze 18-21; 2.  
 Opium Queen 17-21; 3. Summer Saint  
 (12-1), 13 Ren. Christine Jane owns  
 far.  
 3.15: 1. The Fencer 18-13 fav.; 2.  
 B.N. 17-1.

Bright PURPLE, 100%  
 Bright, did not run.  
 4-50: Fireball (1-6 fav): 3. Red  
 Frontage (2-1): 3. My Drake  
 55-11, 8 ran.

at Richmond 11, 3 1/2.  
 TOTE DOUBLE: Tree Breeder, Advice  
 La Fin, \$25.50. TREBLE: Whistling  
 Jenny, Mayham, Bubbles, \$6.50.

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# Legal appointments

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## LAWYER based in BRUSSELS

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London EC3A 7AN

Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche

## Company Lawyer

Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd. is the leading aluminium manufacturing company in the UK, and is part of the Alcan multi-national group of companies.

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Two or three years commercial legal experience following full professional qualification is essential. The position will probably appeal to those earning in the region of £5,500 p.a. and of an age range 26 to 33. Substantial company benefits will apply, including a company car.

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P. J. Teptiklis  
Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd.  
Alcan House  
30 Berkeley Square  
London W1X 6DP  
Tel: 01-493 1618.



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Leading Ship Owners Mutual Insurance Company in the City is seeking two lawyers to join a team engaged in the handling of commercial and shipping disputes.

One lawyer will be about 30 with some five years' experience in practice; the other an apprentice or newly admitted. Both must be either a graduate (good honours) and/or a Barrister or Solicitor.

The successful senior applicant will be expected quickly to assume responsibility for the handling of quite complex cases. The successful junior applicant will act in the first instance as assistant to a Manager whilst being trained.

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An exciting opportunity exists to join a large, dynamic firm in their financial department. Offered as a Graduate/Secretary with a starting salary of £2,200.

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BUREAU NATIONAL D'ETUDES HYDROTECHNIQUES

UNITE CENTRE DE CALCUL

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In the same year inefficient storage and materials handling wasted up to one man-hour in six.

As a result, storage and materials handling cost companies an average 5% of turnover.

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(Source: Department of Industry.)

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Bernard Levin

# He should have known better than to die of a cold in the head, or something

The death in captivity in South Africa of John Cheekyaffir, leader of the movement among black South Africans to persuade the government to admit that they mostly have only two legs each, has given rise to a considerable amount of disquiet, controversy, criticism and kicking demonstrators in the head. It will be recalled that Cheekyaffir, who was 22-years-old at the time of his death, was said by the Minister of Justice, Mr Sjabomb-Goring, to have died of old age. Asked at a press conference how a man of 22 could die of old age, he said that he was himself a qualified doctor, and had examined the body shortly before the murder, and it was quite clear to him that old age was the cause. "All the signs of old age were present," he said, "a broken nose, torn ears, bootmarks on his ribs, the lot. Anyway, the inquest decided that it was old age, which settles it." At this, several reporters pointed out that the inquest had not yet been held, and the Minister explained that that had nothing to do with it: "If we are going to wait for an inquest to be held before we announce its findings," he said, "our admirable and overworked police force would never have time to murder anybody at all."

Next day, 417 leading doctors signed a statement saying that it was quite impossible for a man of 22 to die of old age, and the Minister was asked to comment. "I never said he had died of old age," snapped Mr Sjabomb-Goring. "I said quite clearly that it was a severe cold in the head." A journalist (sorry, it was that horrible man Donald Woods, head of the South African security services, who had just gone so far as to suggest that it is somehow improper for South Africa police to throw suspects out of high windows) then reminded the Minister that he had claimed to have examined

Cheekyaffir himself. "Ah yes," said the Minister, "but it appears there was some confusion. The body I examined was that of another man altogether—an easy mistake to make, after all, considering that the buggers all look the same anyway. Besides, don't forget I'm not a doctor—I'm only the Minister of Justice. I don't know anything about medicine—or justice, either, come to think of it." Woods (for it was indeed he) then pointed out that the Minister, on the previous day, had said that he was a qualified physician, whereupon the Minister smiled wearily and explained that he had been trained as a doctor, but was subsequently struck off the register.

Next day, 8,124 doctors signed a statement saying that it was impossible for a man in Cheekyaffir's excellent state of fitness to die of a cold: at the same time, both the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury expressed anxiety at the circumstances of Cheekyaffir's death. Once more, the Minister was asked to comment, and explained that when he had said that the cause of death was a cold, he had had no direct responsibility himself, but had been relying on the report submitted to him by the governor of the prison, Mr Thug-Deadman. When Mr Thug-Deadman was asked about this, he replied that he had had no direct responsibility himself, but had been relying on the report submitted by Colonel Proudly-Swastika, police chief of the district in which the prisoner was held. When the Colonel was asked about this, he replied that he had had no direct responsibility himself, but had been relying on the report submitted to him by the South African security services. When the General was asked about this, he replied that he had had no direct responsibility himself, but had been relying on the report submitted to him

by the Prime Minister, Mr van der Scoundrel. When the Prime Minister was asked about this, he replied that he had had no direct responsibility himself, but had been relying on the report submitted to him by the Minister of Justice, Mr Sjabomb-Goring.)

The Minister was then asked to comment on the Pope's statement. "The Pope is a Communist," he replied. "I thought everybody knew that." "But what about Archbishop Cogan?" he was asked. "Is he a Communist too?" The Minister curled his lip: "Cogan?" he said; "don't you know his real name is Cohen?" This, as may well be supposed, entirely disposed of the matter as far as all decent and reasonable people were concerned, but it was not enough for the loathsome Woods, who asked the Minister whether an independent judicial enquiry would be set up to examine all the circumstances of Cheekyaffir's death. The Minister first suggested to Mr Woods that he would do well to have himself examined by his own doctor for signs of a serious cold in the head, as old age. "Something tells me," he went on, "that you are in great danger of dying of one or the other quite soon. I mean, it is well known that people with colds often fall under a motorcar, and the number of old people who put their heads in gas-ovens without leaving a note—or indeed anything but signs of a struggle—is shockingly large." He then went on to take the wind out of the sails of the repulsive Woods by saying that not only would an independent enquiry be set up; it actually had been.

"And what is more," he continued triumphantly, "it has already reported."

the police chief of the district in which the prison was situated (Colonel Proudly-Swastika), the Governor of the prison (Mr Thug-Deadman), and himself. And in addition," he added, "the inquiry had two ex-officio members, namely the policeman who actually murdered Cheekyaffir, and were therefore in a much better position to know what happened than any journalist."

Asked to say how long the inquiry had taken, and what its findings had been, the Minister said that it had been set up immediately before Cheekyaffir had been arrested, and had reported the same afternoon—just six days before he had died. "I venture to say," he added, "that few countries could equal that record of swiftness and efficiency. As for its findings, the inquiry concluded unanimously that Cheekyaffir died of measles—just as I told you."

The Minister then went on to reveal that, at the time of Cheekyaffir's death, a number of charges against him were being prepared, on which he would shortly have been prosecuted. These charges included: damage to public property, viz, several police truncheons rendered almost useless by Cheekyaffir repeatedly striking them with his kidneys; unauthorized use of electricity, viz, the substantial amounts consumed through Cheekyaffir's genitals during police questioning; and failing to report an accident, viz, falling down three flights of iron stairs at police headquarters.

Stop Press: The condition of Donald Woods was today said by the Minister of Justice to be critical. Asked to comment, Mr Woods said he'd never felt better in his life. Asked to comment on Mr Woods's statement, the Minister said that he had been misreported. Woods's condition was not yet critical, but was due to become so towards the end of the week.

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## Now 'wetbacks' do not need to swim to America

The Rio Grande, which separates the United States from Mexico for most of its length, has been oversold in the legends and songs of the old Wild West. It may have changed since then, but it is not now-days an impressive river. In particular, it constitutes the puniest of barriers for the hundreds of thousands of Mexicans who seek to cross the border illegally.

They can be seen at any hour of the day or night, wading through the muddy water near El Paso, on the western tip of Texas. It is seldom more than waist high, and between 30 and 50 yards across. The name "wetbacks" was applied to illegal Mexican immigrants because many of them would swim across the Rio Grande. Today, along this stretch of the river, they need not put their backs wet; just their thighs.

El Paso and Chula Vista, on the coast of California, are the two main crossing points for the several million Mexicans who are in the United States illegally. Last month the border patrol arrested 16,135 illegal aliens in the El Paso region. This was a record total, beating the previous best of 15,288 in the previous month. Arrests at Chula Vista are higher—about 40,000 a month and increasing.

Nobody can say for sure how many are not arrested, but the best guess is that only one in four is caught. This would mean that, in these two sectors, more than 200,000 Mexicans make their way into the United States every month. There they try to find jobs, often undercutting local labour, and will in many cases acquire skillfully forged

documents to establish themselves as legitimate residents.

The steady increase in numbers could be partly the result of a promise of qualified amnesty for long-established illegal aliens which President Carter plans to introduce: but when the border patrol question them very few mention that as their reason for coming. Nearly all say that they are driven to it by the need to find work. In Mexico, unemployment is estimated at about 40 per cent. America is rich and irresistible.

The border patrol has 125 officers in the El Paso district, patrolling the river and the hilly desert area to the west. The patrol was established in 1924 and, for the first years of its existence, was concerned with stopping bootleggers bringing in liquor. Today the contraband is people.

One evening last week I went on patrol with Dale Cozart, a senior patrol agent who has been with the force for 12 years. We climbed into an unmarked car and made for the levee road, built on an earth flood barrier running alongside the Rio Grande, south-east of El Paso. As soon as we drove up to the road we spotted our first illegal aliens.

It was surprising of an idyllic scene. Two young men in bright shirts were sitting in the grass on the American bank of the river, under a tall tree to shade them from the late afternoon sun. They could have been fishing or just chatting, but as we moved closer we could see that they were waiting for four other young people who were wading across from Mexico.

Mr Cozart spoke to them and told them to go back. They

Last month the border patrol arrested 16,135 illegal aliens in the El Paso region. It was a record

shuffled, picked up their shoes, rolled up their trousers and climbed into the water. There was no arrest, so they would not be part of the statistics.

"They'll come back," Mr Cozart said. "They wait on the other side until they see an opportunity and they'll cross again. The chances are they'll get across next time because we don't have the manpower. They have time and patience on their side."

Further on we spotted a lone, middle-aged man in ragged shorts which were wet at the edges. He spotted us, too. With a smile, he stepped back into the water and made for the Mexican side.

"He probably works in a bar or a filling station," Mr Cozart said. "Probably comes over most evenings. Tonight he'll be late for work."

Three children, aged between 10 and 12, were the next Mexicans Mr Cozart turned back. Many of them are raised on the streets," he explained. "They come over here and rob businesses or break into cars." Then we saw a man climbing on to the bank carrying a bicycle. He unlimbed at us and went back across with his bike.

The first arrests I witnessed came when we were passing under the Bridge of the Americas, one of the three road bridges connecting El Paso with

Juarez, on the Mexican side. Some young men and women had jumped from the bridge, through a gap in its wire fence. We saw them scrambling over a stone wall into a park which ran beside the road below. Mr Cozart called another patrol car on the radio and stayed on the levee road, watching and directing, while the other car made for the entrance to the park.

Three people were arrested there. Another car arrested two from the same group who had made off in a different direction. We saw three others walking back across the bridge to Mexico, deciding not to chance it—for the moment.

Those held were taken to headquarters for examination. Most would be offered the chance of returning voluntarily, without formal deportation proceedings, and most would take it. If they had a record of repeated entries, or had been caught committing crimes, they would be kept in custody for a deportation hearing.

As we drove on, we saw scores of people on the opposite bank sitting patiently, waiting for the chance to cross, most likely after dark. Then we reached the Black Bridge, a railway bridge which is a favourite crossing point for people who do not like to get their feet wet. It is popular because it reaches El Paso only a few hundred yards from the

spot where buses depart to take workers to farms in the valley.

Later we used a large railway yard, and on the Mexican bank still more clumps of people. "They're waiting to catch the freight train to Santa Fe," said Mr Cozart. "It's going out tonight about midnight. They'll come across and hide on it. We have a team inspecting it and taking them off before it leaves. Sometimes we take 60 or 70 off it."

Just outside El Paso the Rio Grande flows between the border, which shoots off due west across the foothills of the Franklin Mountains. Here the patrol uses different techniques against Mexicans who cross the unfenced border on foot to make for the farms, sometimes walking through the night distances of 25 miles and more, to get work.

The patrolmen have vehicles like Land-Rovers, which are used to drive over the sandy hills, through the scrub. They are alerted to border crossings by sensor devices, and in the daytime they use the traditional desert techniques of following footprints in the sand.

Two patrolmen were waiting for the sun to go down behind the hills when the incident would begin. "We had about 24 last night," one told me. "We'll get about the same tonight. And we'll lose more than we arrest in the dark."

It is a frustrating job, being caught and being a law which with the number of patrolmen available, is only partially enforceable. It is easy to imagine that it could be demoralizing, but the men stick to it, doing the best they can. But what of the illegal aliens themselves? For them, forced through desperation to seek a living by paddling back and forth across a river and hoping they will not be caught, it is not much of a life.

To be continued

Michael Leapman



## East Germany: view from both sides of the Wall

East Germany is a puzzling place. It is Europe's newest state, but is it real? Will it last? It emerged almost by accident when the wartime alliance broke up. For a long time the West would not recognize it, while even the Russians went on toying with the idea of a united neutralized Germany. But it struggled and now it is a fully recognized member of the United Nations with the highest living standards in eastern Europe and a higher per capita income than Britain, according to the World Bank.

In one sense it has clearly survived. But its leaders do not seem to have earned the love and respect to which their achievement should entitle them. They continue to improve the wall, mine strips and automatic firing devices which separate the West from the East against emigration. Some of their people are still willing to pay huge sums of money and risk their lives to escape. The majority make their spiritual escape nightly by tuning in to West German television. A large number of restless writers and singers have recently been pushed out to the West. Merit critics are put in prison or under house arrest. Something seems to be wrong somewhere.

Two new books offer two very different pictures. One is by a sympathetic outsider, Jonathan Steele, formerly correspondent for *The Guardian* in eastern Europe and now in Washington. The other is by a critical insider, Rudolf Bahro, formerly an incompetent apparition and now in prison. Mr Steele is the intellectual spectator fascinated by a political experiment. Mr Bahro is down among the specimens.

According to Mr Steele, East Germany is a real, viable, fully functioning German state whose main problems are simply that its rulers have not yet got over their habitual distrust of the people, that its police still have a cramped view of the world, and that it lacks "sparkle". Otherwise it is an interesting and authentic experiment in European communism, "one of the few test-beds that we have", and an intellectual warning that from the West to the East, the beginning of worthwhile results can come. According to Mr Bahro it is limping along in a state of smouldering crisis caused largely by the imposition of the Soviet system on a west European culture.

Let us start with Mr Steele. He is right to be fascinated and to give a fuller picture than is often conveyed to the British public. East Germany is not just a concentration camp surrounded by barbed wire. Its citizens live a fairly comfortable life for the bottom of the rather low scale of standards to which this globe is accustomed. People are not physically tortured. There is no grinding poverty or orientation. Social security is not from cradle to grave provided you do not kick against the system. If you want to live a quiet life with your mind switched off, it is more relaxing than West Germany. If you want to dedicate your life to building socialism, you will find more efficient and dedicated comrades than elsewhere in eastern Europe. If

you are good at games you can be highly favoured. Human relations are in some ways warmer and closer than in West Germany, though whether this is the result of compulsory levelling and the collective life or of solidarity under pressure is not certain. It may be both. But it is more than a carbon copy of the Soviet Union. Germany had a strong communist party before the war, and although Hitler and Stalin did their best to destroy it, the survivors have ideas of their own. Unfortunately much of the evidence which Mr Steele produces for differences with Moscow shows them being more dogmatic and less liberal than the Russians.

But East Germany really is German, and the government tries hard to develop a sense of national identity by claiming descent from the revolutionary soldiers in the German Weimar Republic who knew Germany before the war and found it more recognizable than its brasher and more Americanized brother next door. The houses are often older, the streets quieter, the pace of life is slower, and the social values are more traditional. Some people are also unkind enough to notice the goose-stepping soldiers, the strident propaganda, and the harnessing of sport to politics.

But is it real and viable as Mr Steele says? None of the usual tests can be applied. It is seething with Russian troops and is heavily protected. We cannot see whether its internal security is dependent on an outside power, whether its people would live there if they could, or whether they would vote for another government if they had the choice. The government shows by its actions that it has serious doubts on these points. It may be better than Mr Steele, or as he seems to feel, it may be blind to its own popularity, but Mr Steele gives the impression that he has never set down among ordinary East German workers in a public and candid way the real life of the country and its people, and that he is not really interested in the political organization of the new society, which penetrates deep into economic activities and into the daily lives of its citizens.

In a way, perhaps the extreme of Mr Steele's hopes that the system can produce its own internal reform is the worst. Mr Bahro indicates that his ideas are considered dangerously infectious. On the other hand, the fact remains that he is in prison at the time of writing. It is a pity that the system's capacity to develop therefore remains open.

Richard Davis

## "Would you buy a Rembrandt for its canvas?" I asked.

An acquaintance remarked that, at £1,250 the Royal Oak stainless steel watch by Audemars Piguet was more expensive than most gold watches.

Which was perhaps missing the point. The value of the Royal Oak is more a

consequence of the way the metal has been used, the design reflecting its strength and character, than the material itself.

In any sphere of artistry and craftsmanship, as I pointed out to my friend, materials alone do not make a masterpiece.

What matters is the way they're used.

And who uses them.



**Audemars Piguet**

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 70 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.

## First step onto dangerous path of precedent

No resignations seem imminent over Mrs Thatcher's surprise announcement that in Government the Conservatives might use the referendum as a means of getting the public's view on a union's threat to hold the nation to ransom.

It could, however, still produce some mild ructions on the Tory side reminiscent of the upheaval in the Labour Shadow Cabinet in 1972 when, by a majority, it decided on a referendum as the way out of Labour's dilemma on the question of continued membership of the Common Market.

Roy Jenkins, deputy leader of the party, George Thomson (now Lord Thomson of Monifieth), and Harold Lever, resigned from the Shadow Cabinet because they could not accept the idea that a pusillanimous Administration should have to refer issues to the electorate which were properly the business of an elected Government to decide.

Some Conservative MPs yesterday said they thought the cartoon scenario which preceded the interview with Mrs Thatcher on *Weekend World* was scurrilous and designed to put the Conservative leader "on the spot" about a confrontation with the unions.

What is needed now, of course, if the referendum is to be quickly called, is for some enterprising backbencher to bring in a Referendum Bill for the next session of Parliament.

Once an enabling Bill has been passed, the questions for particular referendums could be promulgated by Statutory Instruments, approved by both Houses of Parliament.

The Park Bakeries (Weybridge) Ltd proudly print on their paper bags *Craftsmen Baked in Our Own Bakery*. So there is a brand shortage, but that is ridiculous...

**Why blame the shotgun?**

As I do not cultivate an allotment and in view of the fact that I buy velvet jackets neither at Marks and Sparks nor C & A, you have been spared, I am not touch on subjects of interest to you. Now my obsession (and we will leave Madame out of this if you please) is shooting, primarily with a shotgun.

Regular readers start here. You may know, but it is much more likely that you do not, that it is the Government's intention to introduce tighter controls over the issue and renewal, by the police, of shotgun certificates. Time, of course, will tell if the Government's tentative programme to introduce a Bill.

It is already evident, however, that the arguments set forth in the highly unsatisfactory Green Paper of 1973 will form the basis for the Government's proposals. The proposals based on the argument that the proportion of gun violence rises and falls with private gun

ownership. Legitimate gun ownership must therefore be drastically restricted, it is suggested.

Shooting people, clay shots, rough shooters and game shots, the very people who seek close cooperation with the police, therefore face the serious infringement of their chosen leisure pursuit.

Those of you who are members of WAGBI will recall that the Association has been in existence since the 1973 Green Paper and won, with other bodies, some respite for the shooting community. In conjunction with the British Shooting Sports Council (formerly the National Rifle Club Committee), WAGBI is to lead the fight against the new proposals.

Of course, until a Bill is published in its final form, it is possible only to surmise about the extent of the restrictions. However, it is clear from the Home Office letter of this June that the Government believes (falsely) that by introducing stringent restrictions on shotgun ownership (by bringing the shotgun rules into line with Part V Firearms regulations) armed crime would be reduced.

If you are not a member of WAGBI, do please join. Whether or not you shoot, write to your MP demanding to know what he is doing about this crucial encroachment into the freedom of the individual.

Being the proud possessor of an epigrammatic name (PHS) I was naturally delighted to note that the chairman of the GLC Covent Garden committee is called Alan Greengross.

Jonathan wants to leave the rat race and go into the city.



## Inscrutable Scotch guard

There are 100 Chinese guards at work in Scotland protecting 30 million gallons of Scotch whisky north (including duty) worth £200m. The Chinese are readily distinguished, not by their yellow complexion or narrow eyes, but by the fact that they waddle and hawk. They are geese.

The Chinese geese work at warehouses belonging to George Bellarine and Sons. They are descendants of five geese and one gander originally purchased in preference to

guard dogs by a former managing director in 1952.

The idea originated, of course, with the story of the geese on the Capitol in Rome, raising the alarm against the Gauls' nocturnal attack in 390 BC. The birds have proved equally effective in present day Scotland.

As sensitive as more conventional burglar alarms, the geese are considerably cheaper to service. In summer they double as lawnmowers, living off the grass around the 40 acre warehouse site. In winter they eat a little of the distillery's ready supply of grain.

Their population is controlled, and eggs are sold locally to raise money for the Erskine Hospital for disabled servicemen.

## Just the right gesture

How do you commemorate your favourite local lad if he was none other than Donald McGill, the designer of saucy postcards, and seaside bawd extraordinaire? You erect a blue plaque where he lived, don't you. And that is what the GLC did yesterday at Sennett Park, Blackheath.

The suggestion for the plaque came from the owners of the house in the London suburb where the artist once resided. McGill's creative span covered half a century and he was still drawing those deliciously vulgar cards just before his death in 1962. His popular representations of large ladies and small

men in an endless variety of more or less embarrassing predicaments never made McGill rich. He sold the copyright in his cards for six shillings each.

**Top drawer opening**

The ebullient Robert Morley goes on stage shortly to present what he says has taken him a lifetime to rehearse—followed by a few weeks of intensive training. It is his first one-man show in this country. Robert Morley Talks... to Everyone, which has been playing for a week at Brighton followed by a week at Richmond.

Neither the venues nor the duration might seem suitable for the presentation of the best of one so eminent. But then Morley thinks differently. "I have always wanted to play Brighton and Richmond," he told me yesterday.

"You might think just two weeks are not enough to present a distillation of all my experience, but I don't think so. I learned from our experiences, so I'll show it as a platform, and I hope a substantial one—due to my years and great weight, it's a challenge, more a way of carrying a little more. Every word of my advancing years should have a gleam in it, in his top drawer," he added.

Mr Morley, who is 58, refused to say why the show is about his own life. He said he believed people will want to listen to it.





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## DIVIDED ANGLICANS

The division in the Episcopal Church in the United States is an indication of just how strongly feelings run over the ordination of women. There it was to an absolute split, with the breakaway section apparently negotiating to join the Roman Catholic Church. For the Church of England as well as a delicate issue both because of conflicting opinions within the church itself and because of pressures from other churches in the Anglican Communion which are likely to make next year's Lambeth Conference a difficult occasion.

The internal differences within the Church of England have been settled by the decision to ask the General Synod to decide two years ago that there were no fundamental objections to the ordination of women, but it was unable to agree on the next step. No further steps were taken to have women priests. All that was decided was that the bishops should be asked to bring forward a proposal to admit women to the priesthood when they judged the time was right. Earlier this year the House of Bishops decided that this should be in the November next year, after the Lambeth Conference. This does not mean that the Bishops are united in favour of ordaining women; rather that they believe it will be appropriate for the church to consider the matter in the light of Lambeth.

## COLOMBIA'S STRAINED DEMOCRACY

One of the dominant issues at that conference will be whether it should formally endorse the ordination of women. The pressure will be strong. It is not only the Episcopal Church in the United States which has taken this step. The policy has been adopted in principle and in some cases in practice as well by the Anglican churches of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Hongkong. Others may follow and the argument will no doubt be put forcefully that the unity of the Anglican Communion requires such a change and that the position of the Church of England at the centre of the Communion will require it to keep in step with the majority.

Against that can be set ecumenical considerations. It would be very hard to develop close relations with either the Orthodox or the Roman Catholic churches if women were to become priests in the Church of England. There is even to be a special joint meeting of Anglican and Orthodox theologians before the Lambeth Conference in the hope of dissuading it from endorsing the ordination of women. On the other hand, relations with the Free Churches would be improved by such a move: so it is hard to see that the ecumenical arguments can be decisive in either direction. The critical question is what would be most appropriate for the Church of England itself.

The conflicting views on this

matter derive partly from very different concepts of the priesthood. The Church of England is by its nature both Catholic and Protestant. There are those on the Catholic wing of the church who believe that there are reasons deeply embedded in human psychology why the priestly function can only be performed by a man; there are others who see the role as essentially a special form of leadership and who believe that it is in keeping with our society today that women can be leaders as well as men. There is also a substantial body of opinion within the church which may have no very strong convictions on this question itself but which would not be happy to override the convictions of others. That broad tolerance is one of the deepest and most valuable traditions within the Church of England. In one sense, it might be applied on both sides of this debate because, whatever may be decided, there will be those whose cherished principles or whose desire for service will be rejected. But a church with this instinct of respect for the convictions of others should never be prepared to press change beyond the strong and sincere opposition of a substantial minority. The onus must be on those who want women priests to show that there will be acceptance of them among the church at large, and there is no reason to believe that that condition can yet be met.

This system, known as the National Front, has worked more or less well since then, but is now on the point of breaking down. President Lopez Michelsen is a liberal, but the liberals are showing every intention of contesting next year's election, though they have not yet agreed on a candidate. The conservatives, too, are having difficulty in agreeing on a candidate, and Colombian politics are entering a new and unpredictable phase.

The country is going through many of the difficulties faced by other Latin American countries. There are several left-wing guerrilla groups, and they regularly claim responsibility for kidnappings and murders. In response, there appears to be an emergence of right-wing "death squads" who take trade unionists and leftists as their targets. The situation is complicated by the widespread trafficking in drugs—mainly cocaine and marijuana—and the underground groups that this has spawned. Altogether it is a volatile situation, but that is the way things have always been in Colombia, and it has come to be accepted as almost a normal state of affairs.

## THE NEW OUTBREAKS OF CHOLERA

The last great epidemic of cholera was in 1971 when over 100,000 cases were reported in India, Pakistan, North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Further outbreaks occurred in 1972 and 1973, but the disease has since remained quiescent until the outbreak of reports of several thousand cases in Syria, the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific, and Saudi Arabia, where it is threatening millions of pilgrims to Mecca. Asiatic cholera has a steadily malignant reputation, and it is one of the few diseases that can kill a fit young adult in twenty-four hours of the onset of symptoms; yet the infection is preventable by public health measures while with proper treatment facilities very few of those affected should die of the disease.

Cholera is a bacterial infection the intestines which causes intense watery diarrhoea leading to dehydration and rapid collapse. Without treatment the mortality rate can be as high as 90 per cent in young adults and approach 90 per cent in babies and old people. However, if the fluid lost from the body is replaced with a mixture of chemical salts in water the mortality can be reduced to near zero levels. In severe cases this fluid replacement has to be given by infusion directly into a vein, but if treatment can be started while symptoms are still mild, the fluid can be given by mouth. Recent World Health Organization trials of this simple cheap treatment have been extremely successful. No antibiotic treatment is needed.

Cholera can be spread by case to case contact but major epidemics are invariably due to contamination of water supplies by human sewage. The part played by flies, dirty food, and other disease vectors is small, though minor outbreaks such as the one in Naples in 1973 may sometimes be due to infected seafood. The disease spreads rapidly because many of those infected—perhaps as many as nineteen out of twenty—remain free of symptoms and may unwittingly carry the infection with them for several days. However, while there may be innocent carriers among travellers from countries with the disease, cholera is unlikely to gain a foothold in any country with adequate sanitation and pure water supplies.

During epidemics vaccination gives valuable protection against the disease but its value is limited by the need for the vaccination to be repeated every six months to remain fully effective. Cholera thrives wherever there is overcrowding, poverty and poor sanitation. It was a major health problem in London in the early nineteenth century, with a serious epidemic as recently as 1857. The disease was eliminated only when the authorities were persuaded by campaigners such as John Snow of the need for pure water supplies. Many of the rapidly growing cities in Asia, Africa and South America are facing today the problems that Europe tackled 100 years ago, and these will have to be solved if cholera is to be relegated—as it should be—to the history books.

## Recognizing the Vatican

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby, CH

Sir, Full diplomatic recognition by Britain of the Holy See is not a matter only of relations between different Christian Churches. Your editorial (September 17) quite properly brings it into the wider field of secular and political considerations.

As you point out, there are two possible changes, neither of which necessarily entails the other. One is to raise the British minister at the Vatican to the rank of Ambassador. The other is to give the representative of the Vatican in this country official diplomatic status.

The first you say "is little more than a matter of courtesy, and is arguably long overdue". The second "would not make very much practical difference either. You favour doing both and add: 'Opposition to the proposals has come only from the most fanatical and irrational of Protestants and from those Catholics who distrust the propensity of the Vatican to seek understanding with temporal powers throughout its history'.

Nothing in my experience justifies this scathing description of those who take a different view. Certainly it was not true of the Cabinet which considered the first of these two proposals last November. Withstanding the fact that no reciprocal gesture by the Vatican was sought or desired, objections to raising our minister to the Holy See to the rank of Ambassador were so strong that it had to be dropped.

It would be wise to let things stay as they are. There is really no case in these days for diplomatic representations by Britain at (or from) any particular centre of religious authority or spiritual influence, whether Christian or otherwise. More than ever Britain is becoming a multicultural and a multi-religious society. The special position of the Vatican in diplomatic relations with this country is being weakened by this significant change.

## Race conflict in Ceylon

From Sir John Foster, QC, and

Sir, A tragedy is taking place in Sri Lanka: the political conflict following on the recent election is turning into a racial massacre. It is estimated by reliable sources that between 250 and 300 Tamil civilians have lost their lives and over 40,000 have been made homeless and are on the move. The Tamil people are being persecuted and their rights are being denied. The Tamil people are being persecuted and their rights are being denied. The Tamil people are being persecuted and their rights are being denied.

## Refugees from Vietnam

From Mr Philip Goodhart, MP for Bromley, Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, Your admirable leading article on the plight of Vietnamese refugees "They must not be left to die" (September 15), gives a rather optimistic picture of the situation. The reality is that the High Commissioner for Refugees to help those escaping from Vietnam by boat. The United Nations refugee programme is dealing effectively and humanely with those who manage to escape to Thailand from Cambodia and Laos on foot. But the High Commissioner is hard pressed to find any country in South East Asia which will give temporary shelter to the boat refugees.

## Overseas aid cuts

From Mr R. B. S. Purdy

Sir, The letter from Miss Tebbott in your issue of September 15 draws attention to the problems associated with "across the board" cuts in government expenditure. It leaves one with the impression that the government of the day, whether Conservative or Labour, is incapable of exercising discretion and judgment as to where the (very necessary) cuts in public expenditure should fall.

## British art abroad

From Professor Norbert Lynton

Sir, None of the letters you have printed concerning the Berrill Report referred specifically to the Fine Arts Department of the British Council. This, a small specialist staff operating on a shoestring budget and through the local experience of the Council's representatives abroad, sends our exhibitions of old and new British art generally promotes its cause. This work is greatly valued outside Britain. I should like to stress one aspect of its value to ourselves.

## Mrs Thatcher and the trade unions

From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Huddersfield, East (Conservative)

Sir, I believe that those union leaders who rushed in with a noisy referendum suggestion will regret their initial judgement as the day passes and that the attractions of this imaginative idea will sink in increasingly.

The essentials of the concept seem to have escaped Mr Jack Jones. Such a referendum would be a last resort only. The very fact that it existed as a possible step—not a "weapon"—ought to be a powerful factor in concentrating minds against the industrial stoppage which does not just close a factory, but virtually stops the whole economy. It would be "constitutional" in nature and by no means a routine replacement for all the other elements in the industrial relations apparatus. It is said that union leaders are for too many of any new helpful ideas like this if they are proposed from outside their own immediate circle.

Since major industrial disputes are no longer of concern only to the employers and employees immediately involved, but affect the public at large, I am sure that many rank and file trade union members and their wives will warmly welcome this proposal.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH DYKES,  
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire,  
September 19.

From Mr S. M. Swerling

Sir, Your leading article (September 14, "It Won't Go Away") presents with justification a somewhat gloomy perspective of the future relationship between government, whether Labour or Conservative, and the trade union movement.

## Running the arms race

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, Lord Chalfont has not over the years been quite so timely in "sounding the alarm" about Soviet and Communist doom as he implies in his article "As the Arms Race Sinks the West, 'doomwatching' is less of a joke" (*The Times*, September 6).

It was as recently as 1970 that he was signing documents endorsing the then North Vietnamese peace proposals at the Labour Party Conference; in 1972 he was appealing in your correspondence columns for support for the Soviet-backed Committee for European Security and Cooperation (Comrade Shitkov, of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, was in charge of that exercise); and in 1973 he was still advising the Americans to long-term superiority in strategic weapons over the Russians. (It had in fact been clear since the mid-sixties that the Russians were going for strategic superiority over the Americans and in the early seventies that they were achieving it.)

Lord Chalfont is now out of date again: Soviet strategic preponderance in the long-term, which in the last decade has looked assured, no longer does. Mr Carter's arrival and his espousal of the Cruise missile and the Neutron bomb appear to threaten their strategic superiority, as grave as that which American ballistic missile defence appeared to them to pose in 1969.

In addition to the threat of the new American weapons, there are more permanent resettlement areas outside South East Asia but within the tropics for those refugees who cannot find a permanent home in their own countries and have little hope of fitting easily into western industrial societies. There are areas in Central and South America which might be suitable.

The end of the war in Indo-China, America has done far more than any other country to help with the resettlement and relief of refugees. Our British response to this problem has been slow and small. America must still take the lead, and I hope that President Carter, with his enthusiasm for human rights, will turn his attention once again to the plight of these Vietnamese refugees who have fewer human rights than almost anyone in the world. But President Carter has a right to expect that his allies will help America and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in dealing with this tragic problem.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP GOODHART,  
House of Commons.

## Graduates chosen by Civil Service

From Sir Louis Petch

Sir, Once more we have an investigation committee this time the Expenditure Committee of the House of Commons repeating the worn-out nonsense that the system of recruitment to the Civil Service shows a bias in favour of Oxford and Cambridge graduates. I submit that there is no bias, and that any preponderance in numbers is very easily explained.

I have no doubt that the majority of boys and girls with intellectual ambitions, whether they be at public school, grammar school or comprehensive, run Oxford and Cambridge at the top of their university priority list. Thus these two still attract a high proportion of the best brains in the country and are in a position to slim off the cream. Since the Civil Service Commission does the same thing when it comes to recruitment, it is only to be expected that Oxford and Cambridge will predominate. Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS PETCH,  
15 Cole Park Road,  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex.  
September 16.

## Measuring immigration

From Mr Christopher Scott

Sir, *The Times* reported last night's BBC documentary "Race: a question of numbers" (September 12) under the headline "Powell figures on immigration 'too cautious'". In fact, the programme does not show anything that is not grossly overestimated. Astonishingly, your news report never mentioned this.

One is used to seeing newspapers give priority to anything said by Mr Powell in the area of race over anything said by anyone else. But really this reaches the point of absurdity when *The Times* gives preference to Mr Powell's assessment of Mr Powell's figures over an independent expert's assessment of Mr Powell's figures. An honest headline would have been "Powell's figures shown grossly exaggerated". Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER SCOTT,  
60 Highgate Hill, N19.

## Reporting yachts at sea

From Mr Geoffrey McLean

Sir, The problem of Atlantic yachtsmen like Mr Rodgers and Mr Bridgeman in establishing contact is one that applies to very few people, and really it is one of the hazards they have to accept if they embark on a predominantly winter cruise in 25-foot boats. Most of us are more timid and restrict our sailing to coastal passages.

Here the situation has been changed completely in the last two years since HM Coastguard has been equipped all round our coastline with VHF radio on channels 16 and 67. As an example, on passage from the Clyde to Holyhead two weeks ago, I was in contact with either Ardrossan, Ramsey or Holyhead for the whole of the 180-mile passage. All of these stations maintain a 24-hour watch as well as numerous other stations such as the GPO Clyde and Anglesey radio. The Navy patrol boats and the numerous Sealink ferries. This is one of those quiet improvements in sea safety that often go unrecognized. Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY MCLEAN,  
Heanton House,  
Salop Street,  
Wolverhampton.

## How to pronounce it

From Mr J. Windsor Lewis

Sir, Your correspondent Dr Eustace Hope seems disquieted by his *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* and asks (September 6) for advice about the word *colic*. The best advice for him is not to take dictionaries too seriously and least of all when it comes to matters of pronunciation which are the most elusive for them to deal with. New pronunciations are usually wrong, for a generation or more, before they are taken up into most dictionaries. *CONTROVERSY* was in educated use over 50 years ago; it first made the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* in 1976. So was *formidable* which is not there yet. *Armadillo* 50 years ago but was the only form offered by the *COD* until last year.

Dictionaries mainly used by foreigners usually make up in date. At least the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (1974) recommends its users to adopt the *cod* vowel rather than the *cod* in *codicil* and also in *codify*. Whether rightly or wrongly, it knows. Only one other dictionary has done so yet (the *Oxford Concise Pronouncing Dictionary*). The rush lexicographer responsible in both cases was I.

## Violence on television

From Mr Clive Davies

Sir, What would children be doing if not watching television? (Mr G. Campbell-Smith, letter, September 12.) Some, to be sure, would be spending the time in the improving ways Mr Campbell-Smith suggests. But others, we can be equally sure, would be roaming the streets, learning the pleasures to be got from smoking, drinking, drug-taking, sexual experimentation, fighting, committing criminal damage and assault and so on.

In the fifty-year-old debate about the connection between the cinema and television and juvenile delinquency, only one certain fact has emerged from the welter of accumulated evidence: that the child who is in the cinema or at home watching television is not, for the moment at least, committing any crimes. Yours sincerely,  
CLIVE DAVIES,  
Department of Sociology,  
University of Liverpool,  
Eleanor Rathbone Building,  
Myrtle Street,  
Liverpool.

## Reforming wages

From Mr W. Walton

Sir, The principles of the theory of wages and any other economic theory for that matter—manifest to everyone in some wise circumstances and at some wise time, but rather than proving "the most clearly defined concise theory" the principles meaningless if they ignore the classical economists' did not pretend to state the forces which might at one time or another operate under the social sciences. The physical sciences can be "precisely defined": in the social sciences they could be but it would be "faulty". Mr Rees-Mogg's implied assumption (article, September 2) that the cause of the social sciences can be precisely defined is a cause of wholesale misunderstanding, the peddling of fallacies and the waste of resources.

For the same reason it is meaningless to say that "Trades unions increase wages" indiscriminately. During the inflation of the 1970s, businesses have been bunched up, and wages need not have worried about inflation as it is not possible that the

## Treatment of cholera

From Mr W. E. van Heyningen

Sir, I am sorry to disillusion Mr Robert Fisk (report, September 14), but the treatment of cholera by intravenous (and sometimes oral) rehydration with solutions of the appropriate salts has been practised on a considerable scale in many countries for the past two or three decades, since the late Captain R. A. Phillips of the United States Navy overcame the technical difficulties of applying an idea that was much older, indeed, when death is only minutes away rather than when they are "within six hours of inevitable death".

As to the bravery of the people in the Ebn el-Nafis cholera clinic in Damascus, and especially Mr Fisk's in shaking the wrist of the bunched-up doctor, well, they need not have worried about cholera as it is not contagious and generally you have

## Soviet doctor's oath

From Mr Michael Ryan

Sir, In your editorial (August 27) about the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union you refer to the fact that Soviet doctors swear to be guided by "communist morality". In fact the oath which is now taken by all graduates of Soviet medical institutes heavily qualifies the ideal of service to a patient by its references to the overriding requirements of the state. Thus the doctor swears: "In all my actions to guide myself by the principles of communist morality; to remember always a Soviet doctor's lofty calling and responsibility to the people and the Soviet government". Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RYAN,  
Department of Social Administration,  
University College of Swansea,  
Singleton Park,  
Swansea.  
August 30.











# Crucial phase in Co-op merger talks

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

The future of a special committee, set up two years ago by the Co-operative Movement to find ways of streamlining the organization, particularly to strengthen its presence in the High Street, is in doubt today, on the eve of a critical meeting to review developments.

Tomorrow the movement's central executive committee will have its first meeting since a survey referendum of the retail societies threw out a plan to merge the two main bodies of the Co-operative movement—the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the British Co-operative Union.

The committee faces a decision on whether to try to rescue at least some proposals which could improve the competitive edge of the societies, which have been having to fight harder this summer to retain their share of the grocery market especially since Tesco sparked the High Street price war.

The plan thrown out by the referendum was only an interim one, and the special committee is still charged with making final proposals to go before next year's Co-operative Congress.

The special committee, of which Mr Howard Perrow is chairman, has been expected by some in the movement to look again at ways of producing a more streamlined organization, especially for the retailing organization.

But the referendum voting showed that unless opinions changed radically in the meantime there is practically no hope of putting through any major constitutional changes at next year's congress.

In these circumstances it is possible the executive committee may tomorrow decide against the special committee making any further attempt to bring changes by direct means.

The referendum voting, marginally in favour of the plan, although well short of a necessary three-quarters majority, nevertheless buttresses the arguments of the progressive elements in the movement for other measures to be taken.

The campaign to promote mergers among societies, leading to a greater integration of retailing policies, seems likely to be revived.

A plan already exists aimed at reducing the number of societies to fewer than 30, including those in Scotland. Some in the movement would like to see that number down below 10, but many smaller societies have tended to reject the merger route unless forced into it by financial difficulties.

Although a few such "shotgun" mergers seem on the cards in the next few months because of difficult times in retailing, this in itself is unlikely to make much of a dent in the present total of 215 different societies, covering some 13,000 outlets.

Another issue the movement faces is how far capital expenditure, already high

in trying to ensure future sales profitability, can be raised to try to improve the Co-op's present 7.3 per cent slice of the retailing market.

At one time the movement held 12 per cent of the market.

But there have been anxieties that revenue, now the principal source of Co-op capital, has not so far been showing sufficient growth to justify substantially increased capital expenditure.

The interim merger plan could have improved the movement's chances of competing more efficiently on the High Street. A single national federation was proposed, merging the parallel federal bodies of the Co-operative Union, the movement's central coordinating body, and the Wholesale Society, which is responsible for commercial activities.

The single federation would have been controlled by a national board elected by the retail societies. Among the advantages could have been a pooling of expertise, easier achievement of corporate strategy and a greater specialization in retailing techniques.

It is the bigger, more successful of the retailing societies which backed the plan and have also wanted to see more rationalization by merger.

The problem, in the Co-op's brand of democracy, is the fear that what might be won in High Street terms could be a loss to the movement's wider-ranging principles and activities.

## Unions fight Leyland strategy for foundries

From Ronald Kershaw  
Zurich, Sept 19

A decision by British Leyland to establish two foundries and close three others on the recommendation of a Swiss-based international firm of management consultants is being delayed by trade union opposition at one of the plants.

British Leyland said last night that the strategy and policy for foundries was still under discussion, and the company was not prepared to talk about it publicly until the merger was settled.

Mr. W. Wegstein, a principal of the Swiss-American firm Knight Wegstein, said in Zurich that British Leyland had retained them to plan a new grey iron foundry and an aluminium foundry. Three others were to be closed, and discussions were at a sensitive stage.

The aluminium foundry had met with some measure of agreement, but he said, "the iron foundry is in a fight with the unions". Knight Wegstein, he said, was particularly highly specialized in the foundry field.

Not only is the company working for several units of British Steel, but it has ideas for the reorganization of British Railways and several suggestions to make about necessary changes in the treatment of British managers and British trade unions.

Mr. Wegstein's company produced the plan for the reorganization of the German railways. He said he had had many discussions about British Rail and was convinced it could be brought to a break-even situation. It would take about 20 months to sort out.

In some respects, British Rail was better than the German railways in that it handled its own maintenance and had outside clients for whom it worked. A disadvantage was the trade union organization in Britain.

Mr. Wegstein said: "With the German unions, you can have fair, but tough, discussions and they are listening." Mr. Wegstein said Britain as a whole had an important technological potential but emphasized the necessity of creating a stimulus for management. "Money is a motivation factor," he said. On the trade union side he suggested that a gradual change to industrialised unions—one union for one industry—should be encouraged, but said the initiative should come from management.

Before union claims were registered, management should make a list of all possible improvements required over a five-year period and confront the unions with it.

## GLC's plea for Ford factory in London

From the Leader of the Greater London Council

Sir, Norman Howard, Greater London Council Opposition member at County Hall, should really ensure that he knows what he is talking about before rushing into print (Letters, Sept 15).

His suggestion that the Conservative-controlled GLC did nothing to try to persuade the Ford Motor Company to build the £180m factory in London instead of South Wales is both inaccurate and audacious.

Despite the fact that the Conservative GLC administration were in regular contact with Ford's over a period of more than a year they did not persuade Ford's to build the factory in London because they were not aware of the Ford proposals.

The new Conservative GLC learned of the Ford plans from a newspaper in August and immediately pleaded for the factory to be built in London.

But the decision by that time must have been made. Negotiations must have been going on for months.

Ford's have, of course, stated publicly that Dagenham's history of labour disputes is such that they will never build in London again. I am very sorry that this is so because London needs firms like Ford's.

But if Norman Howard is looking for scapegoats he should blame his Labour Government and Location of Offices Bureau who are still encouraging firms to build out of London to the capital's detriment.

Yours faithfully,  
HORACE CUTLER,  
The County Hall,  
London SE1 7PB,  
September 16.

increase of £1.4 million on last year's turnover. Like profits, also was also of our plan, and totalled £103 million, compared with £77 million in the first half of last year.

More important for our 14,000 employees was the dramatic 60 per cent increase in capital spend—up to £5.3 million in the first half. Orders taken during the period were also up to 60 per cent on 1976, laying the foundation for the group to exceed its plan sales and profits for the full year.

The LSP motto is "Aggressive, Profitable Expansion". This has certainly been fulfilled in the first half of 1977.

Yours faithfully,  
J. D. ABELL,  
Managing Director, Leyland Special Products.

Sydney Lodge,  
Nottingham Road,  
Melton Mowbray,  
Leicestershire LE14 0NT,  
September 16.

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These simple questions would reduce delay and criticism for which the solicitor is invariably blamed.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Home loans interest and the tax man

From Mr T. D. Morgan

Sir, It is infuriating that I can never find out exactly what information my building society gives to the Inland Revenue to enable them to quantify the relief due to me in respect of mortgage interest paid. Further, the Inland Revenue positively discourages me from telling them what I consider I have paid by the expedient of preparing a thick line across the assessment in the same way as the mortgage interest item on tax return forms.

Is it too much to ask that building societies should issue to all mortgagees certificates of interest paid during each year of assessment in the same way as banks? These certificates could be checked by borrowers' accountants and then attached to their tax returns in support of claims for tax relief. The present system, whereby a thick line is drawn across the assessment, is more than a little disconcerting to both the building societies and the Inland Revenue as well as eliminating the aggravation factor for borrowers.

No doubt representatives of the building societies will now be proceeding to tell me where I have gone wrong.

Yours faithfully,  
T. D. MORGAN,  
23 Blagden Road,  
Turnbridge Wells,  
Kent TN2 5EG,  
September 15.

Free choice of beer

From Mr Alan T. Harrison

Sir—In Wales there is a public house, currently listed in the Good Beer Guide, some two hundred yards from the brewery supplying its mild ale. Indeed, as it is downhill from the brewery, the use of draught beer might even be optional. It is a regular customer, I gather, and enjoys the beer served. This public house is one of those to be transferred from Bristol to Charrington to Courage own-ership, thus depriving the drinkers of the beer they have enjoyed.

Would it not be simpler, and at the same time would not the real choice be given to those customers, if the Campaign for Real Ale's suggestion were followed, and the licensee allowed to serve a draught beer from one of the several dependent breweries in the West Midlands, which would be cheaper, I imagine, than transporting beer from Bristol and phenomenally changing insignificantly from the local to the national brand?

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN T. HARRISON,  
16 Beal Road, Blockwich,  
Walsall WS3 5SG.

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## Aircraft defects lead to BA flight cuts

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Flights on routes within Britain which are normally heavily patronized by businessmen are being drastically cut back by British Airways because they are short of airliners.

The shortage has been produced by cracks in the wings of Hawker Siddeley Trident 3 aircraft, which has grounded the majority of the fleet.

Only three out of a total of 25 of this type of airliner have been found free from cracks, but two have been returned ready for operations after modification work strengthening by the manufacturers.

British Airways have reduced the number of flights to various parts of the provinces where there is a good alternative service of surface transport.

The shuttle service to Glasgow, which normally operates almost every hour with unlined aircraft in reserve, now flies only every two hours, and with no backup.

In an effort to fill the gaps, British Airways have been using Boeing 707s, BAC VC 10s, Lockheed Tristars and Boeing 747 jumbos on routes which would normally be operated by Trident 3s. The airline has also leased from Gulf Air a VC 10 and a BAC 1-11.

When the cracks were first revealed at the beginning of August it was hoped that the aircraft would be modified and placed back in service in three weeks.

But the work has proved to be far more difficult, and the cracking more serious than was then thought, and it could be early in 1978 before all the work is complete.

No obvious reason for the cracking in what is the latest version of the Trident—has yet been discovered. As part of the efforts to trace the cause, records of every heavy landing are being turned up and studied.

The modification involves fitting strengthening plates, tailored for each aircraft, with one man working within the close confines of the wing.

British Airways' fleet availability would be even worse had they not been forced to cut back their operations by the cracks in the wings, the overhauling effects on the airways and airports caused by the long dispute involving air traffic control assistants at the West Drayton, London, control centre.

The airline said yesterday that they are losing £1m each week through the effects of the air traffic control dispute and the shortage of fleet capacity.

Asked who would eventually pay for the cost of repairing the Tridents and for the loss of revenue while they are out of service, BA commented: "The matter is still under discussion between us and the manufacturers. Our main consideration is to get the fleet safely back into service as soon as possible."

Encouraging outlook for aluminium

By Edward Townsend

The outlook for the world aluminium industry is now more encouraging than it has been for more than 15 years, according to Mr John H. Hale, financial executive vice president of Alcan Aluminium in Canada.

Margins, particularly at smelters, were attaining much healthier levels after a long period of costs rising faster than prices.

Speaking in Winnipeg, Mr Hale said that in Europe Alcan's profitability had remained satisfactory. In the 12 months ending in the second quarter there had been good earnings from both the important United Kingdom and German operations. In the United Kingdom, Alcan operated the 120,000 tonnes a year smelter at Lynemouth in Northumberland.

He said that the summer lull had created customer inventory liquidation which would result in weak third-quarter shipments. However, signs of economic pick-up in the United Kingdom and possible government stimulation of the German economy could mean that the low point in shipments had been passed.

World demand was increasing, said Mr Hale, which by the end of the decade would catch up with even excess production capacity.

Campaign will highlight decline of Britain's roads

By John Huxley

A campaign to highlight the decline in Britain's roads due to lack of maintenance has been launched by the Asphalt and Coated Macadam Association.

Slogans carrying the slogan "Save our roads. Good maintenance makes good sense" are being distributed and association members will be asked to provide details of dangerous, inconvenient or unsightly road surfaces.

A spokesman for the association, whose membership covers about 95 per cent of Britain's "black top" productive capacity, explained: "Our principal aim is to convince the Government that a decisive majority of the electorate does care."

"In short, the campaign is an attempt, like new road building, has been one of the main casualties of public expenditure cuts. The June White Paper on transport policy indicated a reduction of £20m on maintenance from the planned level earlier this year."

In common with the remainder of the construction industry, the "black top" sector has been going through a difficult period. In 1976 22 million tons of materials were manufactured, against 29 million tons in 1973.

## UK software export effort builds up

The appointment of Mr Seymour Joffe as president of Insac Inc. the United States offshoot of the National Enterprise Systems Board's Insac Data Systems subsidiary, is a new stage in the marketing plans of the Insac operation.

With the appointment of Mr Anthony Chandor, formerly with the National Computing Centre, as director of business development for Insac Data Systems, it represents the first firm move by the NEB subsidiary towards obtaining export business for United Kingdom computer software and systems.

The top level of Insac management has now been completed under Mr John Pearce as managing director. Having moved to the NEB from the Rosklyn group to introduce the concept of the board's computer activity, Mr Pearce is now moving across to Insac to implement it.

Mr Pearce and Mr Joffe are in the United States this week to talk to companies there about possible joint ventures and acquisitions. Mr Pearce's intention is to build up the Insac activity primarily by associating with indigenous companies, rather than trying to start from scratch under the Insac banner.

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Mr John Pearce: Insac managing director.

American market has been mounted by the National Computing Centre.

This is aimed at easing the problems of "offshore programming", and thus enabling British companies to do contract programming in the United Kingdom for companies abroad. Seven software houses and contractors are working under NCC contract to produce an "Interlock Programming Manual" which will serve as a guide to United Kingdom firms.

Mr David Fimberg, director of the NCC, sees considerable potential for the export of British software skills in this way.

Aid for management

Aid for management: A new scheme to enable small manufacturing companies to assess whether computer aids for production management are likely to be viable has been launched by the Department of Industry. This will finance feasibility studies by outside consultants in the firms concerned.

The scheme is aimed at companies with up to about 500 employees which might be unaware of the potential benefits of computer-aided production management.

It will continue for three years and will be administered by the Blackman Production Control Group, a group of engineers from the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston.

Proposals from independent consultants will be assessed by the group and, if accepted, consultancy fees up to £2,000 for feasibility studies will be paid.

If the consultant is later commissioned by the company to install a computer-aided production management system, he will refund the study fee.

Inquiries should go to the group at Blackman Centre, Brompton, near Reading, Berkshire.

Kenneth Owen

Marconi lands £9m order from Libya

Marconi Communication Systems has won one of Britain's largest ever export orders for radio communications equipment for civil aviation use. Valued at more than £9m the new order has been placed by Libya. The equipment is to be used at the Tripoli and Benghazi airports.

Shop stewards at Courtauld's main factory in Coventry, where 600 are on strike over productivity pay claim, have called a meeting of the workers for



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Market's nerve is shaken by GKN

Home loans interest and the tax man

From Mr J. D. Morgan  
Sir: It is infuriating to find out that the information my building society has given me about the interest rate on my mortgage is incorrect. I have been told that the rate is 12.5 per cent, but it is actually 13.5 per cent. This is a serious matter as it affects my budget. I am now faced with the prospect of having to pay more interest than I expected. I am sure that this is a clerical error and I am sure that you will be able to help me. I am sure that you will be able to help me. I am sure that you will be able to help me.

With GKN's figures before it, the equity market yesterday began to perform like a lamplighter without the lamp. The focus of attention shifted away from interest rates and money markets to the profits of the company. The FT 100 index fell 15.1 points to 1,512.1, and the FT 100 index fell 15.1 points to 1,512.1.

Admittedly shares were not helped by the sharp drop in gilts as doubts developed about how much further interest rates might fall. The 10-year gilt fell 1.5 points to 10.5 per cent.

But it was the fact that manufacturing industry profits could be lower than anticipated which did the most to shake the market. The FT 100 index fell 15.1 points to 1,512.1.

Initial indications are that any downgrading of full year profit forecasts for the corporate sector as a whole is likely to be marginal rather than fundamental. Obviously any setback for profits is damaging for equities, but since the market has been buoyed up by high expectations the disappointment should not be too deep.

Free choice of beer

From Mr Alan T. Harrison  
Sir: In Wallasey, the market with an unpropitious start yesterday, the 25p drop in the shares of Good Beer Co. Ltd. after 310p earlier in the day was a sharp fall. The company's share price fell 25p to 310p. The company's share price fell 25p to 310p.

Most of the "knowledgeable" selling of regular customers, it is thought, was due to the fact that the company's share price was falling. The company's share price was falling.

Brokers had not expected the shares to fall so far. The company's share price was falling.

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## Sooner rather than later would improve usefulness of EEC Social Fund

Eric Wigham

Members of the European Parliament in Luxembourg last week urged that the Council of Ministers for Social Affairs should expand the resources of the Social Fund to relieve unemployment among young people.

So far, said Mr Henk Vredeling, the Commissioner responsible, the fund had made only a modest contribution to the young unemployed.

But the fund's usefulness could be raised not only by increasing its budget but also by streamlining its procedures. In March this year the Commission submitted to the Council of Ministers proposals for the reform of the fund which included measures to speed up both allocations and payments.

But the Council of Social Affairs postponed a decision when it met at the end of June, and will consider the question again this autumn. So it is too late for the new system to be introduced for 1978. It could come into operation in 1979 if the council approves the changes.

One proposed change would enable earlier examination of September applications so that allocations could be recommended at the November meeting of the advisory committee and approved at least six

months more quickly than at present. The other change would enable 30 per cent of an allocation to be paid when an operation has begun and another 30 per cent when it is half way through.

At the moment, however, the bureaucratic arrangements for making grants are so complex and slow that decisions are not taken until some time after the scheme has been begun and most payments are not made until long after it has been completed.

Public authorities, which include such bodies as nationalised industries and industrial training boards, do what they intended to do anyway, and regard any social fund grant as a welcome bonus.

For private concerns to rely on setting help for their plans is a gamble and their own resources must be sufficient to meet the cost, at least for a long period.

The social fund, set up under the Treaty of Rome, is intended to render the employment of workers easier and increase their geographical and occupational mobility. A large proportion of its grants go to training of the unemployed, retraining and resettlement.

It operates mainly under Articles 4 and 5 of a Council

undertaken by the various countries, and all the countries submit many more schemes than they expect to be accepted, working on the same principle as the football pools punter who knows that the more lines he fills in the better his chances of success.

For 1976, for instance, applications for assistance from the United Kingdom totalled £120.5m with £44.3m agreed. United Kingdom applications for this year amounted to £159.2m.

Britain has so far been allocated more than £150m from the fund since it started in 1973, which is more than a quarter of its total budget for the nine Community countries. This is a high proportion since we contributed only 16.3 per cent to the overall Community budget last year and much less in early years.

In theory every application considered by the EEC Commission in Brussels, and later the Social Fund Advisory Committee, is treated on its merits, without any fixed proportion of the budget going to individual countries as in the regional fund. But it is to be assumed that the Commission will try to avoid giving any country cause for complaint.

Those given first priority will usually get a full allocation and some funds may be allocated to schemes with a lower priority, which are unlikely to be approved before the latter part of the year. An added complication is that parts of larger schemes may be given first priority and other parts second priority.

The Commission usually confirms the committee's recommendations two or three months after receiving them. They have recently announced, for instance, their first approvals of grants for 1977, out of which the United Kingdom is promised £23.4m, but a large proportion of the year's budget of £257m is still to be allocated.

Approval of a scheme does not mean that the money will be immediately paid. A delay will have to be made when the whole scheme, or a large part of it, has been completed and detailed accounts approved by the government auditors of the country concerned. Then the Commission's auditors come over to see for themselves, and this takes some time.

It may well be the end of next year before payments are made for many of this year's schemes, submitted last September. It may be longer than that. Claims for 1974 and 1975 are still to be settled.

Peter Hill

## Can scrap merchants be saved from the breakers' yard?

Growing piles of twisted metal in the yards of scrap merchants up and down the country, and record stocks of scrap held by the steelmakers, are the tip of a particularly ominous iceberg for the scrap industry.

The scrapyard's fortunes are inextricably linked to the performance of the world's steelmakers and for the past two years the scrap industry has plunged deeper into trouble and no early improvement is in prospect.

Scrap is a vital element in steelmaking and when demand is high prices rise accordingly. Equally, when demand for steel is slack, or non-existent, the pressure builds up along the chain and the scrap processors find themselves being squeezed by the steelmakers. This forces down the scrap prices at the same time as the steelmakers have to cope with steadily rising overheads.

Last week the Sheffield-based Morning Telegraph, in its quarterly survey of business in the region, referred to the "suicidal" mood in the scrap industry. Order books in both the state and private sector steelmaking sectors are flat and short-time working is growing.

There is no sign of an improvement in steel demand either here or anywhere else in the world. Caught in the middle are the scrap merchants. In the past year United Kingdom scrap prices have experienced a 50 per cent drop in demand from both the BSC and the private sector steel companies and in the course of the past 18 months steelmakers have cut their buying prices by 11 times.

Last year the industry processed about 11.25 million tonnes of scrap including exports. This year it may not reach 10 million tonnes.

In April last year the buying price for some of the basic grades of scrap was between £42 and £45 a tonne. Today the buying price is down to between



A London scrapyard in 1977: bursting at the seams.

£23 and £26 a tonne. Small wonder then that the scrap industry complains that the recession is probably the worst experienced by the industry in the postwar period.

"What is even more worrying," says Roy Boast, executive vice-president of the British Scrap Federation, "is that it has been so prolonged and there appears to be no sign at all of even a slight improvement."

In an average year the private sector steelmakers use between 2.5 million-3 million tonnes of scrap. The British Steel Corporation uses about 5.5 million tonnes; the iron foundries about 3.5 million tonnes; and about 500,000 tonnes is exported.

Stocks of scrap held by merchants and the steelmakers have risen to an unprecedented 3.5 million tonnes. The scrap men are now worried that the steelmakers may decide to run down their stocks in order to reduce the drain on financing such large stockpiles, with a consequent cut in their scrap requirements. Such a policy—while understandable—could deal a mortal blow to some companies in the scrap industry.

The British Scrap Federation, which represents about 500 of the large scrap metal companies, has seen turnover of the fall by about £100m to around £300m in the past year as a result of the regular cuts in buying prices.

The BSC was particularly aggrieved by the action of the BSC and the private sector steelmakers who placed orders for scrap with the United States when demand for steel was high. The steelmakers then were worried about possible shortages in Britain which would inhibit their ability to meet demand.

In the event the shortages did not develop in the way the steelmakers had anticipated with the result that some 700,000 tonnes of American scrap has been shipped into the United Kingdom.

Faced with a domestic market which was growing weaker, the BSC campaigned strongly for the Government to seek EEC Commission approval for a more generous quota to be granted to the United Kingdom industry for exports of scrap to countries outside the EEC.

The campaign did have some success with the tight controls being eased in July this year. But the combination of sterling's improved performance in the currency markets and the deepening steel industry recession has meant that the British scrap yards have been able to make virtually no headway in the third countries who are able to buy scrap at more competitive prices elsewhere.

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## Business Diary: Coutts lowers itself • Wrens, RN

It soared the message too early but the gentle folk at Coutts, the bank that handles personal accounts of the royal family downwards (but not far), are to suffer a setback with commerce; they're no business customers. Again the main plank of this drive to endow small to medium-sized companies is not much that they can do any extra for them but what they do will carry out with no more approach than your off-the-shelf clearing bank. Mr. Roberts, Coutts's managing director, says companies are just as receptive of that added touch of attention that personal bankers go to the bank for. The service, or in short it treats people like human beings. Certainly, Coutts breaks new ground for the clearer in a tariff as actually published in its corporate customers. At that existing customers do fear that Coutts is set on a path to grow like Topsy. It is actually aware of his place in the wider financial Westminster network says that if it moves too far it will lose its "exclusive" touch.

Ms. Hall, the general manager of the London Commercial Station, says she was formerly acting general manager of the London Symphony Orchestra between the departure of John Boyd and the arrival of Michael Kaye. Ms. Hall then joined Howard Snel, the LSO's former chairman and chief trumpet, who had left to found the Wren and to pursue his conducting ambitions.

Ms. Hall was one of the guests at a reception in London yesterday to mark a coup by



We are the music makers: Left to right, Ald Charles Brooker, chairman of Greenwich's recreation services committee, George Pusack, chairman of Mobil Oil Company, Christopher Field, Pusack's director of recreation services, and Jane Hall, of the Wren Orchestra, in London yesterday.

together things seem to have gone rather well. The Wren perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, on Friday night, and next month they are to kick off the impressive Mobil Concert Season at the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich—designed, appropriately enough, by Christopher Wren.

Ms. Hall told Business Diary yesterday that the orchestra was making the transition from chamber to symphonic music with the help of £50,000 backing from Capital Radio, the London commercial station.

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be the new chairman of the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, it was announced yesterday.

He will take over next Tuesday, succeeding John Page who is now the chairman of the National Ports Council.

Sir Arthur, 61, retired from the Home Office this summer after a career that goes back to 1938. In 1968 he was appointed director-general and clerk to the Greater London Council and returned to the Home Office in 1972.

The appointment, which follows weeks of speculation, was welcomed by operators at the port.

A pre-tax profit of £3.26m for the first half of 1977 was announced last week but at the same time came a warning that the second half was likely to be difficult.

Since then, however, there's been one hopeful sign. The 6,800 dockers on the Mersey have decided not to strike in support of a claim for a pay rise of a fifth and a 35-hour week and have accepted a phase two offer. Discussions are still to be held on a productivity deal which the company wants.

Victor wasn't the only beast who appeared to be floored last night. There is also Animal, an omnivorous energy-producing incinerator which is likely to go abroad because a backer can't be found in this country.

Denis Sanders of Animal's patentholders, Appa Thermal Exchanges, says his company has spent £150,000 developing the machine but badly needs more to build the full contraption. One is already being built for an abattoir, but still in the design stage.

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engineer Arnold Pearce and has been written up in *New Scientist*. Perhaps we'll be able to import them in a few years time.

There is a certain amount of amnesia at British Leyland, I understand, over the prompt delivery yesterday of at least one vehicle, a 12-seater Sherpa minibus, financed by workers as a special Silver Jubilee year gesture, to a home for handicapped children in Nottinghamshire.

Leyland and Chrysler UK, it will be recalled, were left out of the industrywide whip round to present the Queen with a new Rolls-Royce Phantom because they were largely financed by public funds and possibly could be criticized for profligacy.

The Leyland workers' gift was handed over yesterday, but the Phantom is still being built at the strike-hit Rolls-Royce factory in London. Leyland is undoubtedly overjoyed at not having to blame strikes for slow delivery although Rolls-Royce say that the Queen's car is on schedule and not affected by the present dispute.

Lufthansa introduced a channel on their in-flight entertainment system in May last year going instructions for a series of isometric exercises that you can do sitting in your seat. Now they are to bring in another channel on their 747 jumbos and DC 10s for language lessons. All very enterprising and commendable, but why should the airline's sample phrase translate as "Excuse me, please, can you tell me how to get to the main railway station?"

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## SIMON ENGINEERING LTD

Specialised machinery; process plant contracting; industrial services

### Interim Report for the 6 months to 30 June 1977

Profit before tax for the six months to 30 June 1977 is £5,444 million (£3,824 million in 1976).

The Directors have declared an increased Interim Dividend of 2.7p Ordinary share (2.4p in 1976). In addition, a further dividend is declared in respect of 1976 amounting to 0.0701p per Ordinary share, to take maximum advantage of the reduction in the rate of advance corporation tax. The Interim Dividend and the additional Final Dividend will be paid on 30 December 1977 to Ordinary shareholders on the Register of Members on 2 December 1977.

The first six months of 1977 show an increase in value of orders received over the equivalent period of 1976 in all operating groups and the balance sheet and cash position remain strong. It is expected that the results for the full year 1977 will show an improvement over last year. The extent of the improvement and prospects thereafter depend to some extent on the outcome of the ending of phase 2 of the Government's pay policy. Meanwhile the group is well placed to take full advantage of improved demand, and has confidence in the future.

	Six months ended 30 June 1977 £000	Six months ended 30 June 1976 £000	Year ended 31 Dec 1976 £000
Trading profit	4,504	3,448	9,242
Share of profits of principal associated companies	301	330	607
	4,805	3,779	9,849
Interest receivable less payable	639	45	748
Profit before tax	5,444	3,824	10,597
Taxation			
Group	-2,439	-1,600	-4,310
Principal associated companies	-156	-172	-298
	-2,595	-1,772	-4,608
Profit after tax	2,849	2,052	5,



EUROPA  
BUSINESS NEWS

Americans reconciled to strong dollar, but at lower level

## Central banks help in quest for stability

Summer 1977 has proved particularly rich in monetary events, with the fall of the dollar, raising fears of a repetition of its 1973 nosedive, and the convulsions of the European market, which shed yet another skin with the withdrawal of the Swedish crown. After the confidence-restoring calm of the first half of the year, we are now set for another period of confusion and impotence?

Certainly not. Despite the unfortunate psychological effects of these disruptive developments, the world-wide search for stability continues, as witness the flexible reaction by the central banks.

Although they were initially taken unawares by the dollar's decline, which was accelerated by speculation and contradictory statements from Mr. Michael Blumenthal, United States Secretary of the Treasury, and Dr. Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, they quickly recovered their composure to establish new levels—neither too high nor too low—reflecting a balance between the objectives of sustaining competitive positions, exports and activity on the one hand and restoring their economies to health and curbing inflation on the other.

Even the Americans seem to have come round to the idea—for the time being at least—of a dollar which is strong, but at a lower level. As can be seen from a comparison of our two most recent monetary tables, developments to early September resulted in the following adjustments of parity against the dollar: Deutschmark up by 1.5 per cent, yen by

4 per cent, French franc by 0.5 per cent.

A remarkable new development which confirms the general desire for healthier economies has been the way in which the pound, which normally follows the dollar, has broken away on this occasion. To begin with the Bank of England did, admittedly, take advantage of the dollar's weakness to build up its reserves, which are now approaching the record figure of \$16,000m, but it has since allowed the pound to rise from \$1.72 to \$1.74.

The main European countries' policy of putting their economies in order is still showing results, as can be seen from our economic table: lower inflation rates, particularly in Britain and Italy (10 per cent and 12 per cent), reductions in budget deficits expressed as percentages of gross national product in West Germany (2.9 per cent) and Britain (5.5 per cent), reductions in trade deficits with Italy recording a surplus in July, a slower rate of increase in wages in Britain and France.

These favourable trends and, to be honest, the weakness of demand for credit are allowing short-term interest rates to continue their general decline without endangering currencies.

This can be seen first of all in overnight rates which have come down to 12 per cent in Italy, 8 per cent in France, 7 per cent in Britain and 4 per cent in West Germany. Discount rates are also coming down: in Britain with three more reductions in minimum lending rate (MLR) in success from 8 per cent to 7 per cent then 7 per cent, then to 6 per cent and then 6 per

THE ECONOMY						
	Growth (per cent)	Wage increases (per cent)	Budget deficit (—)	Stability trade balance	Inflation rate (per cent)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
United States	7	8.5	-2.5% (-845,000m)	-2% (-83,000m)	8.5	
West Germany	-3	7	-2.9% (-DM35,000m)	-2.7% (+DM2,700m)	4.0	
France	-2	11	-0.8% (-FF12,000m)	-2.3% (-FF3,200m)	11.0	
Great Britain	0	6	-5.5% (-£27,000m)	-3.2% (-£20,320,000m)	10.0	
Italy	3	30	-9% (-1,300,000m lire)	-1.8% (-234,000m lire)	12.0	

(1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.  
(2) Estimate for 1977.  
(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.  
(4) As percentage of gnp and in national currency.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS						
	Interest rate (per cent)	Day to day	Prime rate	Against the dollar (6)	Against a basket of currencies (7)	Change in stock exchange (per cent) (8)
Dollar	10	6.125%	7.25%	—	100.9	-2
Deutschmark	(8)	11	4%	5.5%	2,226 (101.7)	(-15)
France	(8)	6.5	8.5%	9.3%	4.93 (113.1)	(+3)
Pound	(10)	15	7%	7%	1.743 (82.2)	(-13)
Lira	(13)	(19)	12 1/2%	17%	883.4 (78.5)	(-13)

(5) Six months moving average expressed as annual rate.  
(6) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month.  
(7) End December 1975 = 100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed on table plus Japanese yen.  
(8) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

cent (sic), in Italy from 15 per cent to 13 per cent and then 11 per cent and even in France now, with a cut of one point from 10 1/2 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent. There is also a downward trend in prime rates, the rates available to top corporate customers.

It is to be hoped that these developments will work their way through to long-term rates, savings and investment, thus favouring a healthy recovery. In this connection mention should be made of the plans announced on August 22 to boost the Italian economy, which include tax concessions, along the lines of what has already been done in West Germany.

In Italy as well as Britain, West Germany and France, the stock exchanges are back on a rising trend, although not without some hesitancy and setbacks. This is a somewhat surprising development at a time when growth rates are once again flagging in both Europe and the United States.

The course of events in the latter country should encourage caution on this side of the Atlantic in that it shows that sound financial conditions are not enough in themselves to ensure a recovery.

Indeed, in their efforts to maintain financial order, the Americans are having their work cut out to alleviate the

pressures created by a very high level of activity and are still obliged for the time being to go against the European tide and interest rates are rising, with overnight rates at above 6 per cent and prime rate at 7 per cent or even 7 1/2 per cent recently.

Does this mean that rates are going to go much higher? No, not as long as the authorities manage to get the monetary situation under control, if necessary at the cost of a fall in the growth rate. This is unfortunately not yet the case, as witness the recent upsurge in the United States money supply.

Maurice Bommesath

## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Sony slows down but Record year in sight

Tokyo, Sep 19.—Sony Corporation, the electronics giant, expects record net sales and income for the year to October 31, even though business is still tough. In the nine months to July 31 sales rose 7.1 per cent to a record \$1.38 billion, but net income climbed 11.4 per cent to a record \$106m. But these achievements cloaked a poor third quarter.

In this quarter, net profits were only \$29m against \$40m in the same months the year before. Sales were \$459m compared with \$461m.

Sony Corporation said that though third-quarter net income and sales did not achieve the

## Jubilee helps SGI to double at half-time

By Victor Felstead  
Stanley Gibbons International was confident enough a year ago and events have justified that confidence. In the first half year to June 30 turnover jumped 57 per cent to £591m and pre-tax profits leapt 127.9 per cent to £798,000.

An interim dividend of 2.27p gross is declared on the capital doubled by the recent rights issue, against 2p on the old capital.

Mr A. L. Michael, chairman, reports: "Trading continues at a high level and as we have been fortunate in securing some valuable collections during recent months the board is confident that the second half of the year will be at least as profitable."

So, pre-tax profits of around

£1.5m look likely for the year. SGI made a record £1.1m in 1976. All sections of the business increased their turnover in the first half year, well as stamps, SGI is in books, coins and maps as well as auctioneering.

The stamp issues in connection with the Silver Jubilee contributed to profits in the month. These issues brought many new collectors into the hobby which also benefited the group in the year ahead, the chairman declares.

While the stamp market accounts for a large part of profits, SGI's other collecting activities are in a "very healthy position", and current results show that the group is gaining an increasing share of this and expanding market.

## International

"exceptionally high" level of the same months in 1976, the results were the second highest on record.

It added: "Substantial sales increase of the Sony Beamax videotape recorders and video tapes contributed.

**Warner-L on course**  
Morris Plains, New Jersey—Warner-Lambert (drugs and chemicals) expects 1977 earnings to increase to \$2.35 a share and possibly more, from \$2.01 a year ago, Mr L. Burke Giffin, chairman, reports.

Third quarter sales and earnings, he said, are going according to plan. In the first half of this year the group earned \$1.24 a share, up 8 per cent

## Interim jump at Garton En

Not content with records in 1976, Garton Engineering, formerly Garton Cooper, is now growing faster than ever before. Turnover rose 39 per cent to £591m in the first half of this year, but pre-tax profits rose by 46 per cent to £798,000.

In the first half of last year profits were only 7 1/2 per cent up and 27 per cent higher for the full year at £821,000.

Mr A. Garton, chairman, reports that the improvement in demand continues. Garton makes precision engineering components and fasteners.

The recent capital expenditure programme has equipped it for a bigger demand. The product range has also widened.

The gross interim dividend

risers from 3.79p to 4.09p. Garton's board intends to pay a final of 4.54p against 4.06p, which would make a 10 per cent total.

Moreover, a third interim 0.06p is to be paid for the year to adjust for the reduction of the rate of ACT from 35 per cent.

A second half year as well as the first six months was meant about £1m profit in 1977. If so this would be the first time Garton has made a profit.

In his annual report April, the chairman remarks that while Garton's progress was good, the market it served over broadening group intended to seek opportunities for further expansion.

THE LIST OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE OPENED AT 10 a.m. THURSDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER 1977 AND WILL BE CLOSED ANY TIME THEREAFTER ON THAT DAY.

## 8 1/2 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1982

ISSUE OF £800,000,000 AT £88.25 PER CENT

PAYABLE IN FULL ON APPLICATION (namely 298.25 for every £100 of the Stock applied for)

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 5th JANUARY AND 5th JULY

This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Applications for the Stock should be made to the Bank of England.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND authorised to receive applications for the above Stock.

The applicant of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Debt, with recourse to the assets of the Bank of England.

The Stock will be repaid at par on 5th July 1982.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on 5th January and 5th July. It will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. It will be paid in cash or by cheque on demand.

Applications, which must be accompanied by payment in full, of £298.25 for every £100 of the Stock, should be made to the Bank of England, New Street, London EC4A 3DF, or to any of the following banks or branches of banks, which are authorised to receive applications for the above Stock.

Applications for the Stock must be made in multiples of £100. Applications for less than £100 must be made in multiples of £1,000.

Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted will be despatched to the applicant on or about 10th September 1977. The balance of the Stock allotted will be despatched to the applicant on or about 10th September 1977. The balance of the Stock allotted will be despatched to the applicant on or about 10th September 1977.

A commission at the rate of 3.125 per cent of the Stock will be paid to the applicant on or about 10th September 1977. The balance of the Stock allotted will be despatched to the applicant on or about 10th September 1977.

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# Satisfactory results forecast for 1977 United Biscuits Interim Report

## Group Results

At the halfway stage in 1976 our profits had increased by 84%. This was a particularly difficult target to beat, so I am pleased to be able to report that in 1977 sales have increased by £60 million to £323 million and profits before tax by £2 million to £17 million. This profit increase keeps pace with the combined effects of inflation in the U.K. and the U.S.A.

Margins in the U.K. improved, while in the U.S.A. where our volume increased by 4%, margins declined from the exceptionally high levels of the first half of '76 to a more normal but still acceptable level.

In Spain the launch of a major new product had to be delayed due to technical difficulties. Although considerable progress has been made, the planned break-even trading profit position for the year will not be achieved.

Since the AGM in May when I last reported to shareholders, we have taken up our option to acquire the Wimpy franchise in Europe and the rest of the world excluding the U.S.A. I see fast food as one of our most important future development areas.

## Outlook

In both the U.K. and the U.S.A. trading is less buoyant than I had anticipated when I reported in May. Subject to the maintenance of stable industrial relations in this country, the profit for the year should show a satisfactory increase over 1976.

## Consolidated Profit Statement for the 28 weeks ended 16th July, 1977

28 weeks to 1st January 1977 (Audited)	28 weeks to 16th July 1977 (Unaudited)	28 weeks to 17th July 1976 (Unaudited)
£000	£000	£000
<b>Sales</b>		
United Kingdom (including exports)	187,701	150,821
U.S.A.	122,305	104,306
Europe	9,285	8,043
Rest of World	3,760	1,870
<b>Trading Profit</b>	<b>323,041</b>	<b>263,040</b>
United Kingdom	11,808	8,381
U.S.A.	7,451	8,574
Europe	(209)	(512)
Rest of World	153	(6)
<b>Interest</b>	<b>19,201</b>	<b>16,437</b>
<b>Profit before Taxation</b>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>1,416</b>
<b>Taxation</b>	<b>17,037</b>	<b>15,021</b>
<b>Profit after Taxation</b>	<b>8,424</b>	<b>7,513</b>
<b>Earnings per Share</b>	<b>8.613</b>	<b>7.508</b>
<b>Dividends</b>	<b>8.3p</b>	<b>7.8p</b>
Interim (now declared)	1977	1976
Final (to be recommended, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances)	1.7500p	1.5854p
Total recommended dividend	2.8162p	2.8866p
Increase in proposed total dividend over 1976: (the maximum permitted under present legislation)	4.6862p	4.2420p
	10%	

## UB United Biscuits

United Biscuits (Holdings) Limited  
Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5NN



McVITIES · CRAWFORDS · MACFARLANES · KP · CARRS · WIMPY · KEEBLER

19th September 1977

Heckler Laing.  
Chairman

## Business appointments

### New managing director of A Gallenkamp

Mr J. C. Z. Martin has been named managing director of A. Gallenkamp. Mr J. Valentin has become a director and Mr D. Sutton his alternate. Mr P. Haller has given up the post of joint managing director and continues as chairman.

Mr J. D. P. Miller has been appointed to the board of Coats Patons.

Mr J. White, Mr B. P. Ford and Mr D. Dunn have joined the board of L. Lipton. Mr J. A. Lipton, Mr D. Keating, Mr C. D. Thomas and Mr L. B. Collier have resigned.

Mr C. H. Tidbury, chairman-elect of Whitbread, and Mr C. A. A. Eagger, a director of A. J. W. Benson, are to join the board of Boddingtons Breweries as non-executive directors. Mr F. O. A. G. Bennett, the retiring chairman of Whitbread, continues on the board.

Mr Christopher Shaw has been named managing director of James Halstead and Mr David Vaughan managing director of B. M. Coatings.

Mr F. R. Morgan has joined the board of Robert McBride Group.

Mr Timothy Ling is to become a partner in Pricewaterhouse.

## TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

The applicant named below requests you to allot to him, her or it in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated

16th September 1977

of the above-named Stock. The applicant requests that any letter of allotment be sent to him, her or it by post at his, her or its risk.

The sum of £100,000,000 being the amount required for the issue of the above-named Stock is hereby applied for, and the applicant declares that the amount is not being applied for by the applicant or any person acting on his, her or its behalf.

September 1977 SIGNATURE of or on behalf of applicant

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

MR/MS/MISS OR TITLE

FIRST NAME(S) IN FULL

ADDRESS IN FULL

Applications for amounts up to £2,000 Stock must be in multiples of £100. Applications for amounts over £2,000 must be in multiples of £1,000. Applications for more than £2,000 Stock must be made to the Bank of England, New Street, London, EC4A 3DF.

A separate cheque must accompany each application. Cheques should be made payable to the Bank of England and crossed.

If this declaration cannot be made in whole or in part, the applicant must make a declaration in writing to the effect that the declaration cannot be made in whole or in part, and the declaration must be signed by the applicant or by a person acting on his, her or its behalf.

The Bank of England, New Street, London, EC4A 3DF, is the only place where applications for the above-named Stock can be made.

Applications for the Stock must be made in multiples of £100. Applications for less than £100 must be made in multiples of £1,000.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## The worst day since mid February

A week-end of cautious press comment and further reflection on last week's clutch of disappointing results, culminating with GKN late on Friday, brought some heavy selling in the first two hours of trading. With the institutions not inclined to come in to any great extent at the lower levels prices made only a small recovery from the early setback and the FT index closed at 360.7, down 15 points from 375.7, its worst day since mid-February.

Over in the food sector profits from United Biscuits were largely in line with most estimates but the chairman's warning on future profits was not to dealers liking and the shares slipped 7p to 166p. There was an even weaker performance from Rowntree's, which slipped 10p to 152p, and Fisons which closed 8p lower at 360p ahead of figures due next week.

In view of the vulnerability of the building industry to economic trends there was a surprisingly strong performance from the sector with most prices well above the worst. After closing 265p AP Cement closed at 275p, Wimpey 2p to 82p after 80p and even Tarmac held up comparatively well after last week's overseas losses to end a couple of points down at 171p. International Timber managed a gain of 4p to 127p, but Taylor Woodrow slumped 12p to 45p.

Clarification of the destination of some difference of opinion among equity dealers over the significance of the recent stock market's all-time high. See also p. 18. The market's recent rise has been a predictable reaction, but there is a feeling that investors are now having doubts about the state of the economy in general and company profits in particular.

As is usual on these occasions, the "blue chip" equities were the worst hit, many ending with double-figure losses.

GKN, whose figures at the end of last week confirmed, for some time, earlier doubts about profits, dipped 25p to 315p, five points better than their low point of the day.

Others heavily in retreat and mostly at or around their low points were Glaxo 18p to 630p, Beecham 16p to 632p, ICI 12p to 422p, Unilever 10p to 532p and Fisons which closed 8p lower at 360p ahead of figures due next week.

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With last week's interest rate cut in mind property shares turned in a comparatively good showing, but some still lost ground, typical being Bernard Sunley 7p to 175p and Great Portland which slipped 6p to 288p.

In the gold sector a firm metal price helped some of the heavyweights, notably FS Geduld which added 75p for a close of £117.5.

There was a middle order recovery for some time. The impression was that Rheem could keep any acceptance even if it failed. However, it was not to be. Friday is the final closing date and those who have bought recently and want to sell are having trouble getting shares.

Equity turnover on September 16 was £151.01m (31,262 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were GKN, ICI, Grand Metropolitan, Tarmac, Tube Inv new, Shell, Glaxo, BP, Stone-Platt, Gus, A. Beecham, BOC new, EAT, Drif, Distillers, Furness, Wilby, Thos Tilling, John Brown and Vickers.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Unilever	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Coca-Cola	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
ICI	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Grand Metropolitan	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Tarmac	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Tube Investments	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Shell	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Glaxo	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
BP	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Stone-Platt	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Gus	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
A. Beecham	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
BOC new	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
EAT	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Drif	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Distillers	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Furness	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Wilby	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Thos Tilling	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
John Brown	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7
Vickers	1,237.7	0.93(0.001b)	1.57(0.49b)	0.34(Nil)	17/11	1,237.7

## Strong start paves way for an outturn of £4m at Tricentral

Half-way through 1977, Tricentral has already made its total profits for the whole of 1976 with an outturn of £2.46m before tax.

The board is taking a cautious line on the second half mainly because of the present marketing restrictions on United States gas sales. But even though it is warning shareholders that second-half results are unlikely to exceed greatly the profits of the same period last year, that should still take the full year to around £4m pre-tax bringing the prospective p/e ratio down to a more manageable 13 at 1977, down 4p yesterday.

The drive behind the much better look to the profit and loss account after its lacklustre look in previous years continues to come from the North

American gas and oil sales and the commercial division both in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Profits in the United States have benefited hugely from both the granting of "small producer" status to Tricentral and the rise in gas prices and are double those of last year at £1.51m, although sales have slipped back 5 per cent in the year. With consumer groups appealing against the price increases, Tricentral is carrying a contingent liability of £261,000.

Meanwhile, the commercial division is forcing ahead with cars the year where profits have risen from £196,000 to £312,000 on the back of a strong showing from the Ford division.



Mr. Joseph Godber, chairman of Tricentral.

## Higher offer for BEC from SRE Electronics

The takeover battle for control of British Electronic Controls took a new turn yesterday with an increased bid from SRE Electronics which is bidding against Derrington. The new offer values BEC's equity at about £1.14m.

National and Commercial Development Capital has bought in the market 1.08m ordinary shares in BEC (about 28 per cent) at 29.29/32p each, cum-dividend. This holding, together with the holdings of the three executive directors of BEC, whose company, SRE, is making a bid for BEC, makes a total of about 41 per cent of the capital.

In accordance with the City Code on Takeovers, SRE will be raising its offer to 29p per share, ex-dividend. The scheme of arrangements will be amended and steps will be taken to convene the relevant meetings, which were adjourned on September 8. NCDC confirmed that sufficient cash is available to implement the improved terms.

The three directors of BEC are Messrs F. R. Semark, J. H. Rutherford and A. C. Emerson. The original offer was 23p cash a share and the acquisition was to have been effected by a scheme of arrangement.

In July, Mr. P. S. Lane, the independent chairman of BEC, and County Bank, who were advising BEC, said they would recommend the ordinary holders to vote in favour of the scheme of arrangement on September 8.

At that time, the three directors owned about 13.4 per cent of the ordinary. County Bank and the ICFC and other holders, including Mr. Lane, whose holdings totalled 51.39 per cent, said they intended to vote in favour.

However, in September, Derrington made an offer of seven ordinary shares for every four ordinary shares of BEC.

The meetings for September 8 were adjourned so that further consideration could be given to the Derrington offer.

## Production upsets at T. Marshall

The making of carbon products has produced more waste than was expected to production fell at Thomas Marshall (Lloyds). This is the main reason for the "disappointing" results for the six months to June 30.

Pre-tax profits saw a fall of 4.8 per cent to £409,000, despite a rise in turnover from £6.1m to £7.6m.

Meanwhile the high level of carbon waste is receiving urgent management attention.

At the moment profits from other products in the group are in line with forecasts.

Back in May, Mr. W. T. Hale, chairman, said that over 50 per cent of group production would be exported in the current year and its plans for development were largely based on further penetration of export markets.

However the present stability of the pound and continuing domestic inflation will make it difficult to maintain the level of exports.

## Anderson drops Gerber bid: Unilever silent

The Gerber Products company has had "no negotiations" with Unilever on a possible takeover of Gerber by the Anglo-Dutch company, according to Mr. John Suerd, Gerber's chairman, write Frank Vogt from Washington.

Unilever made an approach to Gerber in late April, but this was referred by Gerber to its merchant bank, Goldman, Sachs and Company, and there have been no direct contacts between Gerber and Unilever since then.

However, developments now announced by Gerber may well pave the way for a renewed attempt by Unilever, should Unilever still be interested in acquiring this important American company.

Gerber announced that Anderson Clayton has withdrawn its proposed tender offer for Gerber and, in response, Gerber has withdrawn its complaint to United States courts that the offer violated American anti-trust laws.

In what may be viewed as a warning to Unilever and others possibly interested in a take-

over, Gerber notes that "its continued independence serves the best interests of its stockholders, employees and communities in which it operates". Gerber is the world's largest producer of baby foods and the management's decision to refuse the offer by Anderson Clayton brought suits from shareholders that may serve as a warning to Gerber's directors of significant difficulties ahead if Unilever now makes a good offer.

Anderson Clayton first offered \$40 a share, but then reduced its bid to \$37 when Gerber reported a drop in first quarter per-share net earnings from 30 cents to 54 cents in the first quarter of 1976. The Gerber shares now stand at around \$34.50.

Gerber had total sales last year of about \$400m and in recent years it has branched out into life insurance, day-care centres, nursery items and child clothing.

According to a report in the New York Times the Unilever company is still interested in taking over Gerber.

## Expanded Metal in 21pc setback

The extent to which margins in Expanded Metal are coming under pressure is indicated by results for the six months to June 30. Turnover went up on £10.3m to £12.3m, but pre-tax profits dropped 21 per cent to £1.24m. The shares shed 56p on the news.

Sir Patrick Hamilton, chairman, explains that the basic business has continued to progress but it could not absorb the major drop in the price of the steel stock-holding subsidiary.

This fall more than accounts for the setback in group profits. A subsidiary did well last year but this time it is experiencing very difficult trading conditions, in line with virtually whole steel industry.

Back in May, when the group was making its £3.2m rights issue, Sir Patrick said that, however, including exports, as well as despite recession in the building industry, the group was in a strong position.

He said that it would be late 1977 and into 1978 before substantial developments, which are being undertaken at considerable cost, began to make a positive contribution to profits.

Home Charm

Results of Home Charm, the "do-it-yourself" stores group, the whole of 1977 should show a "healthy" increase or 1978, when the present bid was a record £1.01m, the chairman, Mr. H. E. (Manny) Angel, says. Trading remains at a satisfactory level and every effort continues to be made to strict costs.

Last week the group reported a profit of 18 per cent up on £51,000 in the first half to July 2. Over the half year three stores were opened and the area of the group to 5,000 square feet, the chairman adds.

Since July 3, a further two have been opened. With an opening of another large store planned for next month, a retail selling area of the

group will shortly be 578,000 square feet.

The two remaining overseas stores in America have now been closed.

David Dixon is now doing much better

The profits of Leeds-based David Dixon and Son Holdings so far this year show a "marked improvement" and the board expects it to continue. So writes Mr. R. A. Palfreyman, chairman, in his annual report. Dixon manufactures woollen cloth and hosiery, underwear and other products.

With the annual report are the formal details of the settlement of a debt of £710,000 due to Dixon from the Bank Bridge Group and Muring Securities. Bank Bridge has already paid £125,000 to Dixon under the terms. The chairman tells shareholders that liquidity has been helped considerably by the receipt of the £125,000.

ICFA conference on private companies

"The future of the private company in Britain" is the tantalizing theme of a one day conference to be held on Tuesday, October 25 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank. The conference is being handled by the ICFC and cost is £4.60 per person. The persons aimed at are chairmen, managing directors and their professional advisers. Lord Seabrook, chairman of ICFC will be introducing among others Mr. John Methven, the CBI's Director General, Mr. Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, and Professor Jim Ball, principal of the London Business School.

Southwark's issue underwritten

In spite of yesterday's sharp fall in stock market prices, underwriting was successfully completed for an issue by the Borough of Southwark of £20m nominal 11½ per cent redeemable stock, 1984-5. The new stock is partly-paid with

calls falling due as follows: on application £10 per cent; on October 31, £40 per cent; on December 9, £49½ per cent.

At the 1991 per cent issue price, the gross redemption yield is 11.34 per cent and the first yield 11.31 per cent. This leaves the stock looking dear against the market and the success of the issue will depend largely on the way market prices move today and tomorrow. Application lists close on Thursday morning.

Polysar not going higher for Mono

The offer from Polysar Belgium for Mono Containers will not be increased, but will be accepted. The offer leaves Autostar Vending Industries with the highest offer with its bid of £1.45m made in August. Polysar, which is ultimately run by a Canadian government-controlled company, has received acceptances totalling 22.16 per cent of the ordinary shares and 41 per cent of the preference.

Bid offer forces Houchin suspension

The Stock Exchange has temporarily suspended the shares with Houchin, the maker of ground equipment for electrical servicing and starting of aircraft. This follows a board announcement of an approach about an offer for the ordinary capital. The shares were suspended at 132p, where the group is valued at £2.9m. The identity of the bidder was not disclosed.

MALTESE CROSS INS

Department of Trade has given permission for Maltese Cross Insurance (Subsidiary of Lombard Insurance) to conduct liability, motor vehicle, pecuniary loss, personal accident and property insurance business in United Kingdom. Company is already authorized to transact marine, aviation and transport business.

CCH INVESTMENTS

Mr. Gordon A. S. Currie, chairman, has bought 467,000 ordinary shares which, added to ordinary and option shares already held, makes total of 500,000 shares (8.5 per cent).

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88 Leadenhall Street,  
London EC3A 3DT

Cazenove & Co.,  
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London EC2R 7AN







### Stock Exchange Prices

## Bad start to account

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began, Sept. 19. Dealings End, Sept. 30. § Contango Day, Oct. 3. Settlement Day, Oct. 11

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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